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HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH

OF THE PAST AND PRESENT

STATE OF IRELAND.

IRELAND, by Cæsar and Tacitus distinguished by the name of *Hibernia*, by Ptolemy, the geographer, called *Ivernia*, by Diodorus Siculus *Iris*, and by Strabo *Ierne*, enjoyed, at a very remote period, considerable celebrity as a seat of religion and learning. After the dawn of Christianity in Europe, from the number of erudite and holy men it sent as missionaries to other parts of the world, as yet immersed in Gothic ignorance and darkness, this island acquired the dignified title of **INSULA SANCTORUM**, or the Isle of Saints—a title which it continued to retain during the fifth and two following centuries. In the eleventh century it was called *Scotia*, in common with the modern Scotland; and “all correct writers,” says Archbishop Usher, “in mentioning the two countries, distinguished them by *Vetus et nova Scotia, major or minor, ulterior and citerior*.” Even so late as the fifteenth century, Ireland is mentioned by foreign writers under this name.

Though we cannot give implicit credit to the relations of the Irish historians, in regard to the high degree of civilization, and the progress of the arts of peace, for which, as they assert, their country was eminent at the distant period alluded to; yet it appears but reasonable that these effects should have been in part produced by the ages of tranquillity and prosperity enjoyed by the island, previous to the invasion ordered by Egfrid, King of the Northumbrians, in the seventh century; when

its lands, churches, and monasteries, were laid waste. This irruption, together with those of the Norwegians and Danes, (the *Ostmen*, or *Eastmen*, of Irish history,) towards the close of the eighth or the beginning of the ninth century, terminated not merely in the entire subjection* of the island to the Norwegian leader, Turgesius; but by the intestine wars which ensued between the natives and the new settlers, for nearly three hundred years following, occasioned the destruction of those learned seminaries for which Ireland had been long so justly famous, “whence savage septs and roving barbarians derived the benefits of knowledge, and the blessings of religion,” and reduced the people and the country to that state of moral and political degradation, from which, owing to the mistaken—we had almost said *similar*—policy of the government which succeeded to that of the barbaric hordes, they are yet far from having completely emerged.

At the era of which we are about to speak—that of the arrival of the English in 1170—the civil contentions of Ireland having produced its division into several petty kingdoms, nominally dependant on the King of Connaught; Roderic O’Connor, then King of that province, and monarch of Ireland, invaded the territory of his vassal the King of Leinster, in punishment for the manifold cruelties and acts of oppression by which the latter had made himself odious to the people under his immediate sway. This Prince, by name Dermot Mac Morogh, flying from the arms of Roderic, sought refuge in England; whence passing into Aquitaine, and throwing himself at the feet of our Henry the Second, he solicited his protection, and took an oath of allegiance. Happy to avail himself of so favourable a conjuncture, Henry, who even as far back as 1155 had procured a

* According to Giraldus Cambrensis: though later writers suppose Turgesius to have conquered only some considerable portion of the country.

bull from Pope Adrian to authorize his invasion of the sister island, immediately issued an edict (being precluded from rendering personal assistance by the war he was carrying on in Aquitaine) importing that he had received Dermot into his protection, grace, and favour: "*Wherefore that all they, that to him as oure lawfull man helpe yieldeth into his land him to restore, oure grace and oure good love have they thereto.*" After some delay, Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow from his excellence in archery, a man of courage and address, but of desperate fortunes, espoused the cause of the exiled prince; and undertook to lead a body of men to Ireland in his service, on condition that Dermot should give him his daughter Eva in marriage, and settle upon him and his heirs the inheritance of the kingdom of Leinster. It is scarcely necessary to add that the efforts of the gallant Earl were crowned with success, and laid the foundation of the English power in Ireland: Henry soon after setting sail from Milford Haven for the scene of the late contentions; confirming, by royal grant, the possession of the province of Leinster to Strongbow; and receiving from him, and from all the other petty sovereigns of the country, not excepting the titular King of Ireland, Roderic O'Connor; himself, the oath of submission and fealty. Then, having distributed large tracts of land to the principal of his followers, and appointed Hugh de Lacy (to whom he had given in fee the county of Meath) the first general governor, under the title of Lord Justice, he returned to England: from which period the Kings of England have been the acknowledged sovereigns of Ireland; and have appointed successive viceroys, who were at first called Keepers or Wardens of Ireland, afterwards Justices and Deputies, now Lords Lieutenant, and, in their absence, Lords Justices.

That the English government, thus permanently settled in Ireland, has, from its commencement almost to

the present era, been radically and most lamentably *wrong*, many circumstances tend to demonstrate. In every other country of Europe, the progress of civilization, of the liberal arts, and of those tastes and elegant desires which mark the improvement of humanity, has been commensurate with that of letters and of time: Ireland alone, the greater part of it at least, remains immersed in nearly all its pristine barbarity. In England, and yet more conspicuously perhaps in Scotland, the general division of labour, and the successive improvements in machinery, have advanced agriculture and manufactures to a pitch of excellence hitherto unprecedented in the annals of the world; *in Ireland*, the subjected peasant yet weaves for himself the garments that he wears, rears for himself the wretched cabin that he inhabits, tills with his own hands the ground for every morsel of produce upon which he subsists, and unites in his own person every office of rural, domestic, and manufacturing economy. The consequence is, that his garments are generally such as an English labourer would scarcely stoop to pick up from the ground, his cabin and his food such as would be appropriated for the lodgment and subsistence of our working animals, while he himself, in many instances, performs the various species of labour, in England allotted to those useful brutes.—Far be from us the wish, from national pride, or for the encouragement of prejudices, as prevalent as they are unworthy of us, to overcharge the picture we have drawn: *the facts* have been before our eyes; and with sentiments of the sincerest pity we repeat those facts, as a necessary first sketch of the features, prominent to the view of every tourist, in the ill-fated country we have undertaken to describe.

We have alluded to defects in the government of the country, as the prime source of its complicated wretchedness; and, without the slightest intention of engaging in political disquisitions, or evincing the slightest

shade of bias in regard to any political point, we must revert to, and in some measure enlarge upon, the opinion thus generally expressed, in order to render our ideas of the actual state of Ireland in any degree clear to those who may favour us with their perusal.

The selfish and exclusive spirit which, immediately upon the conquest of this country, separated “the meer Irish,” as the original inhabitants were insolently called, from the hateful aristocracy of *the pale*, continued, with very little alteration, (although its distinctions, subsequent to the reformation, became religious rather than national,) to actuate the reigning administration until the year 1778;* and, truth compels us to add, the traces of this spirit are still but too perceptible in an ‘united’ government, the constitution of which, according to the eloquent Burke, “is not *made for great general proscriptive exclusions*,” since “sooner or later it will destroy them, or they will destroy it!” Yet have not those *great proscriptive exclusions*, by which the immense majority of the Irish population are debarred from every exertion for individual improvement, by the deprivation of the grand prospective solace of all human effort, hope of individual honours and rewards—have not those exclusions, by their deep though silent operation, for ages, in themselves been calculated to produce that abject disregard for all the comforts and conveniences of life, that slavish awe of wealth and power, which so peculiarly characterize the ‘proscribed’ many among the poor in Ireland; together with those tyrannical and overbearing habits which in that country are as peculiarly, and, we fear, almost universally, the attributes of the affluent and favoured few?—The reader will perceive that we make no distinct allusion to the chief political question, in regard to Ireland, of the day—that we

* When “some of the most galling and degrading parts of the code of popery-laws were abrogated.”—*Earl of Darnley’s speech in parliament.*

consider the oligarchical settlement of the country by Henry, the tyrannous acts of that otherwise great and enlightened Queen; Elizabeth,* the exterminating policy of Cromwell,† the bad faith of the ‘constitutional’ William,‡ the rigours exercised in the extinction of the recent

* Three successive insurrections took place in Ireland during the reign of this Queen: the last of which, becoming a national warfare, was protracted seven years, and not finally terminated at her death. The extensive forfeitures succeeding every attempt, and the intolerable oppression of the natives by the recent settlers, rekindled the flames which immature efforts to *force* the reformed religion upon the country had originally fomented: but though Philip of Spain seconded with all his might the rebel armies, both the Spaniards and Irish were at length universally subdued; and the consequence of this immense bloodshed was only the more complete establishment of the English power, than at any previous period, in Ireland.

† The rebellion extinguished by this fortunate general had lasted eleven years, commencing with the general massacre of the protestants in 1641; and was productive of the most baneful consequences to the peace, union, and prosperity of Ireland. The severe restrictions imposed on the catholic party had produced a burning desire for revenge; the protestants were not behind-hand in sanguinary retaliation; the horrors acted on both sides almost surpass belief, and the number of inhabitants who perished in these years was not less than 600,000! The march of Cromwell was one track of devastation and bloodshed. After the re-establishment of the protestant interest, the population of the old native Irish was much *exceeded* by that of the old and new inhabitants of the British race.

‡ The battle of the Boyne, with which ended the hopes of the Second James, was succeeded by the treaty of Limerick. In this treaty it was stipulated, that the catholics should “enjoy such privileges in the exercise of their religion as were consistent with the laws of Ireland;” and “the said Roman catholics” were promised “such further security in that particular as may preserve them from any disturbance upon the account of their said religion.” Yet in the face of this first article of the treaty, that code of defensive and preventive statutes was compiled, which extended to the very abolition of this their venerated religion—a code which impeded the progress of catholic industry, and thwarted every species of laudable ambition among the people of that persuasion; which exposed them to unnumbered outrages and spoliations, reduced them almost to the condition of slaves, obstructed matrimonial alliances between them and the protestants; and, in the end, set the son against the father and the father against the son, and threatened the destruction of every tie of filial and fraternal affection, by the act (in the reign of Anne) by

rebellion,* and the whole past and present temporal disabilities of the catholics, but as so many links in the chain of causes which produced the effects we deplore. Singular, indeed, as unfortunate, has been the fate of Ireland. Though Henry introduced the English laws within the pale, though Elizabeth, finally expunging the Brehon code,† established our system of legislature throughout the country, yet for ages after that period the people in general received no advantages from its establishment: and, notwithstanding the subsequent union of the two countries has wrought out some substantial benefits for Ireland, and has paved the way for greater, the beneficent and equalizing spirit of our legal institutions is still far from being generally understood, as well as from operating for the benefit of that class for whose protection laws were principally made, in this hitherto unhappy island. Even now the poorer orders consider an appeal to interest, or the eloquence of a bribe, as the only cer-

which it became law that "the elder son of a catholic remaining a catholic, the younger, professing himself a protestant in his father's life-time, should inherit the estate!"

* This last rebellion, it must be admitted, was the fruit of political rather than religious differences in the country; and the false glare of the French revolution was undoubtedly the first active stimulant to the long-slumbering elements of civil disunion. The insurrection broke out among the presbyterians of the north; and the catholics were mere tools in their hands. But, precluded from taking up arms on the side of government, the latter, even if loyally disposed, were in numerous instances compelled by self-defence to enlist under the banners of the rebels; as they were, by turns, driven from their homes and means of subsistence by the army, or forced into the passing bands of the disaffected. As soon as the presbyterians perceived the ascendancy derived, in the progress of events, (from mere numerical strength,) by the catholics, they changed sides, and secretly assisted the government: and this circumstance, uniting with the mild and conciliatory measures *at length* adopted under the administration of Marquis Cornwallis, alone preserved the country.

† The *Brehon* laws were those of the aboriginal Irish: so called from the Brehons, or officers by whom they were administered. They were extremely rude and imperfect, suited only to an early and turbulent state of society; and their chief feature the *eric*, or fine of compensation they allowed for every imaginable crime.

tain means of obtaining justice; even now, though high judicial situations are filled by men of undoubted honour and integrity, too many of the petty magistrates oppress, insult, or neglect the populace, as it may suit their humours or their convenience; and the populace, in their turn, finding the

“Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law,”

imbibe feelings of contempt (well masked by seeming obsequiousness) for the magistracy they in other circumstances would honour; and not unnaturally conceive *themselves* privileged to redress the wrongs of which they might fruitlessly complain to their superiors. Hence the numerous outrages which disgrace the nightly annals of the country; hence the associations of “Carders” and “Threshers”—associations so far from originating in *mere* disaffection to the government, as is very generally supposed, that they invariably arise out of a spirit of opposition to some attempts of local despotism; and are the genuine results of the desperate fear and deeply-brooding revenge of men feeling themselves aggrieved, yet deprived of all hope of legal recompence by their natural protectors. Private acts of malice and revenge are indeed the only stain upon the national character of the Irish: and having observed the sources whence they flow, as from a fountain-head of heart-burnings and discontent, it better becomes the generosity of the English character to palliate than very severely to condemn them. The Irish have been accused also of cruelty and deceit—no opinions, if applied to the great body of the nation, can be more erroneous: and though individual instances in support of such opinions should be adduced, yet surely they must be repeated with a bad grace by a people whose government and whose ancestors have both deceived and oppressed, and who themselves but too frequently ridicule and insult them; whose penal laws

and whose arbitrary sway have, it is probable, rendered a character, originally open and unsuspicious, jealous, cunning, and distrustful; and have reduced a frank and noble nation to a state in which prevarication and cheating become modes of self-defence, and in which the low vices of barbaric life are necessarily and inevitably generated. "To place no trust in a people," says an elegant writer, "is often an effectual way to make them unworthy of trust: and when the Irish find that they are no longer aliens in the lands of their fathers, they will be amongst the most faithful subjects of the British empire,"*

Strong reasons exist for believing that the native Irish and the Highlanders of Scotland were anciently one people: their customs, manners, language, and superstitions, bear a resemblance to this day; and the Highlander converses easily with the 'wild Irishman.' With some limitations, it is true that the Irishman, as well as the Highlander, possesses "the generous and chivalrous spirit—the self-subdued mind—the warm affection to his family—the fond attachment to his clan—the love of story and of song—the contempt of danger and of luxury—the mystic superstition equally awful and tender:" and, observes the writer we have just quoted, "he only requires to be placed in circumstances favourable to moral improvement, in order to exhibit the same lovely picture of simplicity and innocence, of affection and fidelity, that may be seen in the glens and recesses of the north:" although "the Irish peasant (now) does not much excel the savage in just notions of liberty, or in due respect for the laws and civil institutions of man!"†

The *hospitality* of the Irish has become proverbial; and it is confined to no rank or class, language or religion. *Welcome! kindly welcome!* is the universal salutation to the traveller who approaches their cabins in the more frequented parts, where English is generally spoken; and *Ceud mile failte duit!*—a hundred thousand welcomes—

* Dewar's Observations on Ireland. † Mr. Newenham.

is shouted by man, woman, and child, to every visitant, in the native Erse of the mountains. This language, it has been observed, and may be repeated by the way, abounds with terms of *endearment*—another proof of the “mild and tender enthusiasm” proper to the Irish character. It is spoken by 3,000,000 of the people; and, like the vernacular languages of the Welsh and Highlanders, is loved and venerated by all those “to whose infant minds it first conveyed the tender and endearing accents of maternal affection,” to a romantic extreme.

The mention of the language in common use among so large a proportion of the population, (a population, of which though there are few accurate returns, we are induced to estimate as rather exceeding 6,000,000,) naturally leads us to a subject, in one point of view intimately connected with it, though too generally considered as extraneous. We allude to the state of education among the lower orders of the Irish; which, in very few instances, that we could discover, at the period of our recent tour, was conveyed in the *national tongue* of the inhabitants, in which only instruction can by any possibility be efficiently received by those who speak it. Schools are sufficiently abundant; and immense sums are annually expended in their support; but the lessons are invariably *in English*, though intended, as we are warranted in supposing, for the benefit of the poor natives, who are incapable of maintaining a conversation in any language but the *Erse*! A fact scarcely to be credited; and sufficient of itself to account for the deplorable ignorance of the great mass of the people; as well as for the actually increasing prevalence of that language, and that religion, both of which, it is to be presumed, this *protestant* mode of teaching was intended to exterminate. Should popery indeed be rooted from the island?—enlighten the minds of the people, then, in the only way it is possible they can be enlightened; and the mists of delusion will of themselves fall from their eyes: and though a majority

might continue papists in name, there are countless instances to prove, that the name alone would neither make them bad men nor disloyal subjects. Should the influence of the priests be abolished?—let the clergy of the established church *preach* to their benighted flocks in the dialect of the majority* of those they have taken under their spiritual care; and the flocks themselves, deserting their ignorant and selfish guides, would, in the natural course of things, prefer the teaching of sound learning, disinterested zeal, and eloquent ability. Or should the Irish language, on the ground of the benefits to be derived from national unity of speech, be extirpated, at least so far as it is a medium of *oral* communication?—still, strange as may appear the means we would devise for this end, we would simply recommend that, by versions of the Bible, Prayer-book, &c. in that tongue, as well as by teaching, and, for a time at least, preaching also in the same dialect, its temporary cultivation should lead to its final eradication. This has ever been found the only rational method that could be adopted for the extinction of a language, spoken by a class only in a nation, the language of whose government is dissimilar to it; and its expediency has been fully shewn, both in Wales and in the Highlands, the respective national dialects of which are hourly wearing away, under the like system of cultivation. Indeed, the principles upon which this method is founded, are the principles of our common nature itself; since mankind in general, it is seen, will cling to their native habits the more obstinately for their being proscribed; since, unless coerced by their rulers, men are naturally prone to imitate their modes of speaking as well as of living; and since they not only obtain a foreign tongue more easily by being first enabled to enlarge their ideas in their own, but, finding the materials

* We beg to be understood here in a restricted sense; as speaking only of those parts of Ireland, where the Erse is the dialect of the majority.

of knowledge scanty in the dialect of their fathers, are led to gratify their now awakened thirst for information, by more familiarly acquainting themselves with a language containing the treasures of that erudition they admire.

These remarks are more particularly applicable to the *Irish* poor, as they are themselves eminently prepared for the reception of a liberal system of education, calculated to supply their wants, without wounding their nationality, or unnecessarily disturbing their prejudices. Their efforts for the attainment of knowledge, the

“ Majestic tree, that prondly waves
 “ Its branching words, its letter-leaves ;
 “ Whose root is truth, whose stem is power,
 “ And virtue its consummate flower,”*

are unremitting and universal; and *inquisitiveness* is among the more obvious of their national characteristics. Unlike the lower classes in many countries, conspicuous only for their boorish stupidity, they are, as a distinguished member of the British senate, Mr. Curwen, observed, “ the most pleasing peasantry in Europe;” arch, vivacious, shrewd, and intelligent. Neither is it any exaggeration, that an Irishman “ will walk miles with you to discover whence you come, where you are going, and what is your business: he will appear merry to make you frank, and perfectly untutored and simple, with a design constantly in view.”† It should be noticed also, that these people possess no common talent for striking and original remark; and with this faculty probably is connected the not less amusive habit of blundering; but, let it be remembered, that their blunders “ are never blunders of the heart.” With those among the Irish, habituated only to the native dialect, this propensity, it is justly thought, may be ascribed, in a great measure, to the circumstance of their

* Dr. Drennan.

† Mr. Dewar.

conversing, when with strangers, in one language, while they are at the same moment *thinking* in the abrupt and highly figurative idioms of another; for in the Erse, which alone in general they perfectly understand, they are not observed to make more blunders than other people. And should it be objected to this apology, that even where no Irish is spoken the natives are equally liable to these *Hibernianisms*, we have only farther to plead, that a certain dry humour, a considerable degree of enthusiasm, and exuberance of fancy—no unpleasing traits of character in a people—may, possibly, both with the Irish and Anglo-Irish, be the grand sources of their production, and our consequent entertainment.—It may be remarked also, as in some measure corroborating this view of the subject, that among the Highlanders, who are equally distinguishable for enthusiasm and warmth of fancy, though inferior in humour to the Irish, the same propensity has been observed, although in a less degree.

A high sense of *honour* is also so prevalent among these people, as to be entitled to the distinction of a national characteristic: of all professions, that of an informer is the most universally execrated; and accordingly men of this class are rare in proportion to the contempt and detestation in which they are held. The *general honesty* existing amidst so much distress, is yet more to be commended: as an instance, the potatoes, which are the chief food of the poorer orders, and are generally left embanked in large quantities in the fields, are rarely, even in seasons of scarcity, known to be pilfered. *Charity* ranks high in their list of virtues: from the very meanest cabins, the shout of welcome extends not less to the common beggar than to the way-faring man. Among a people thus alive to all the generous impulses of feeling, and as eager to be grateful as to give, it were an anomaly in the human heart were they not equally susceptible of resentment: accordingly we find the Irish the warmest and best of friends, and worse foes we cannot

readily imagine. And that the scale of morality among such a people should be inconsistent and imperfect, will not be wondered at by such as are acquainted with the influence of national depression upon national character : it should be an axiom in political economy, that “every circumstance, which divests the individual of respectability, either in his own or others’ estimation, is injurious to his *moral* interests.”

The population of Ireland is excessive; evidently exceeding its means of support. Its increase of late years has been out of all proportion to that of capital and means of employment; both of which, in most countries, are concomitant with, if not the creative sources of, numerical growth in the inhabitants. In 1185, Giraldus Cambrensis tells us, Ireland was without roads, and nearly *uninhabited*; even in 1652, Sir William Petty supposed the population not to exceed 850,000; yet at the present moment, as already stated, it probably amounts to more than 6,000,000! A prodigious increase for any country in the time; and particularly for a country circumstanced like Ireland. But perhaps the very circumstances generally supposed to retard population in a country, in Ireland have contributed to augment it. National debasement produces a general disregard for consequences; and poverty becoming, as it were, indigenous to successive generations, appeared to inspire less horror as the portion of their offspring: marriages therefore were early and inconsiderate; and the children, when grown up, being compelled, from insufficiency of provisons in the parental cabin, to seek establishment for themselves, created an increased demand for minute subdivisions of land, (from the time of the Brehon laws too prevalent in Ireland;) while this excessive subdivision again afforded “too great a facility to marriage.” Thus cause and effect operated and re-operated upon each other; while the aggregate consequences were augmented and are yet augmenting by the

general desire among persons of landed property to multiply the number of settlers upon their estates, for the purpose of making *freeholders*; by a process, both novel and peculiar to this country, which we may hereafter take an opportunity of describing.

This extraordinary increase in the number of inhabitants, has likewise not unfrequently been ascribed chiefly to the introduction of the potatoe in Ireland; a root, by the cultivation of which, while *fifteen* Irish, it is calculated, are maintained by the same extent of land as is necessary for the support of *one* English manufacturer, the truth of that position has also been proved, which asserts that "cheap food is not always a blessing." Some again have been inclined to consider the want of manufactures a leading cause of the redundancy as well as of the general misery of the people; since, as is most true, manufactures have a tendency to create the wants they are instituted to supply; and, by thus teaching improvement in the modes of living, become a relative check to population, when it is foreseen that, consistent with the enjoyment of such and such comforts and conveniences, any great increase in numbers cannot be supported by the soil. But both these causes are resolvable into the primary ones of political debasement, and excessive subdivision of land; as, without the latter, the peasant could not be able to appropriate so small a portion of ground as is equal only to his demands for rent and subsistence upon potatoes; and, unless politically debased, no nation would be long content with such an utter deprivation of the blessings of life, as this mode of subsistence argues; but would of itself establish the manufactures at home, or the commerce abroad, necessary to the supply of its growing wants, were industry and enterprise but efficiently protected, and exertion sure of its reward.

The state of agriculture in Ireland may in some measure be inferred from our previous remarks; as well as from the established fact, that a large proportion of its

inhabitants subsist upon potatoes. Notwithstanding, however, a considerable quantity of corn is raised, both for consumption in the large towns, and for exportation. But the general system of husbandry is wretchedly barbarous; and the redundancy of *manual* labour, to an English eye, not a little remarkable. Even potatoes, experience in the growth of which, it might be presumed, would have produced absolute perfection in their mode of culture, might be reared by methods infinitely preferable to those here in use. One fourth of the land in tillage is supposed to be applied to the cultivation of this root. The soil is remarkably fertile, excepting that of a very few spots in the island; so much so, that, as the English agricultural reader will be surprised to learn, three successive crops of grain, obtained, *without manure*, from the same land, are considered but ordinary instances of its productiveness, and by no means calculated to deteriorate its quality. The general want of capital, for the improvement of this branch of industry, is seen, throughout the country, in the smallness of the farms, (the possession of an hundred acres by one person being thought extraordinary;) in the want of stock, implements, and out-buildings; in the field divested of a hedge, and the gateway stopped by a broken car. Two causes have been assigned for this state of things, as independent of the political situation of the country—the prevalence of *absentee-ship* among the great landed proprietors, and the existence of *middlemen*. But the first of these, it is evident, arises out of the primary political cause; since, but for the supposed insecurity of persons and property, and the general barbarity of manners, (both of which have been traced to a political origin,) the temptation to living in the sister country would scarcely have occurred to the opulent proprietor, capable of blessing and being blessed by a grateful and affectionate tenantry: and the middlemen are mere excrescences on the soil, the consequences of absentee-ship, in a great measure, and of the long leases

formerly and still too generally granted; which rendering it next to impossible to prevent the lands from being re-let, jobbers in land have taken advantage of these circumstances, to engage large tracts for this especial purpose. But, undoubtedly, whatever may have produced absentee-ship and middlemen, both are diametrically opposed to the agricultural improvement, and the general happiness of the country. In the absence of the head landlords, their agents and middlemen too generally rack the sub-tenants without mercy; and, since the latter know that, whatever improvements they may make upon their farms, they will be rewarded for them at the expiration of their own *short* leases, by demands for exorbitantly increased rent, or by deprivation of the very lands on which they have spent their money and their time, they force the soil to its very utmost capability of bearing; both with a view to present profit, and in order to obtain easier terms, should they be so fortunate as to have their leases renewed to them.—For the same reason, if they possess the means, they neglect the opportunity to erect barns and other out-buildings; for what men will diminish their actual property, for the purpose of ultimately *increasing* their yearly expenditure?

Such a system, it must be seen, is, both to the head-landlord and sub-tenant—to all but the middlemen—ruinous in all its bearings; yet such is the system almost universally pursued; and the sacrifice of individual happiness is great, beyond all proportion even to that of individual profit, occasioned by it.

A class of men whose profession connects them with agricultural pursuits, and who, generally speaking, are the only rural economists who arrive at opulence in Ireland, are the graziers: but their success is not to be attributed to any superiority of knowledge or skill; but, partly to the absence of tithes, (tillage land only paying the church dues throughout the island,) and partly to the greatly increased demand for cattle,

of late years, for the purposes of exportation. But this circumstance affords only an additional example of the impolitic and vexatious constitution of things; for the great proportion of cultivated land is under tillage, and let to *cotter-tenants*; these latter therefore (and the majority of them catholics) contribute no less than a full tenth of the scanty produce of their toil, for the support of an establishment of which they are not members; while the domains of the nobility, and the pastures of the wealthy grazier, are exempt from a burden, which in Ireland is literally "a tax upon indigence." We would not encourage, but we must commiserate, the disaffection of a people to the government which protects them not from oppression like this: tithes are a subject upon which, to the honour of the country, we think, all ranks in Ireland—those who do not, and, in general, even those who *do* profit by them—are agreed: all execrate, or, at the least, wish for an equitable commutation of them: and few in England, we conceive, can wonder at the risings of "Threshers" and "Whiteboys," when they knew them to have originated in resistance to those who, in their extortion of tithes, have sold the cow, or the produce of the potatoe garden, necessary for the support of a clamorous and starving family. Nor need we be surprised, if men, thus goaded to revenge, are incapable of restraining themselves to the object for which in general they professedly assemble—that of *swearing* their fellow-sufferers not to submit to so intolerable a burden—but if, having weapons of destruction in their hands, they raze to the ground, or commit to the midnight flames, the mansions of their oppressors; and sometimes even murder the tithe-proctors and collectors themselves; accompanying their retributive vengeance with every mark of unrelenting barbarity.

It is, however, an admitted fact, that the presbyterians of the north are far more averse to the payment of tithes, than the catholics themselves; and that, in col-

lecting it, much more trouble is given by the opposition of the former than of the latter.

The presbyterians, as a body, are, in many points of view, highly deserving of respect. Undepressed by the galling restrictions of the popery laws, and possessed of the only national manufacture,* they are an industrious, thriving, and, comparatively, even a wealthy people. But participating just so much in the misfortunes of their country, as to perceive the difference between their own situation, and that of their English brethren; and deriving from their habits of trade, and superior styles of living and appearance, more ascendant minds, and higher notions of self-consequence, than the catholics; they are yet more turbulent and unruly than the members of that religious persuasion.—It has been noticed, that they were the principal instigators to the unfortunate rebellion of 1798.

Generally speaking, the personal appearance of the inhabitants of the north is superior to that of their southern countrymen. They excel them in stature, are better formed, and more athletic. The females in general derive from nature no small share of their appropriate loveliness; but, among the poorer orders, the smoke and filth of their cabins, and the rude manual labours to which they are exposed, contribute early in life to deface this fair distinction, and too frequently they are observed to look old in their very prime. “Beauty in the fair sex,” says Mr. Curwen, very justly, “is as much prized, and as little taken care of, in Ireland, as in any country in the civilized world.” The women are also fruitful mothers, and take a pride in the number of their offspring; whom they value besides for their assistance in husbandry: any number of children below a dozen is not considered a large family.

Religious as well as political parties run high in Ireland; particularly in the north, where the manners and

* That of linen.

sentiments inspired by church, kirk, and Roman catholic chapel, are more than ordinarily distinguishable. The several congregations differ as much in numbers and appearance as in their religious creeds. This is sometimes strikingly exemplified on the Sabbath in the same town; where the catholic chapel will be crowded to excess with worshippers, to the full as remarkable for poverty as devotion; the kirk well attended, and its occupants all in decent habiliments; the church, if occupied, only by the well-dressed few, and, too generally, all but empty! The proportion of catholics to members of the established church, for the whole country, is as seven to one. The miserable pittance derived by the Romish pastors from their flocks, depends mainly upon the abject thralldom in which they are enabled to keep them; therefore, that men so circumstanced should themselves possess the desire to enlighten those, whose ignorance is the staff on which they lean, and the very means of their subsistence, is too much to expect from human nature. They besides possess the key to the ears and hearts of the catholic fold, by their universal acquaintance with the national language. In regard to the clergy of the established church, though, doubtless, numbers of them are eminently zealous in the performance of their official duties, yet the good they effect is, as has been already hinted, limited to those who are capable of understanding English: certainly, however, in a country where the system of *jobbing* is notorious among the higher classes in general, the clergy have not altogether escaped the imputation of a too exclusive regard to temporalities; and, indeed, if common report is to be believed, the traffic in church preferments has been carried to a scandalous extent in Ireland. But this system, it is to be feared, pervades here nearly universally with those who have least occasion for the benefits to be derived from it; for in Ireland almost all public works—too often projected, or

else thwarted in their beneficial operation, for private purposes—are literally “jobs.” Canals are cut, bridges and roads are constructed, from the same motive, and with views to the same end: hence it is, that the canal, however magnificent in itself, precedes the extension of commerce, which alone could evince its necessity, by half a century, it is probable, at least; that the road, though exceedingly well made, and indefatigably preserved, runs just where it is absolutely useless, except to the proprietor to whose lands it is contiguous; and who probably obtained the ‘presentment’ for its construction, *at the expense of the country*, from the grand jury. From this latter abuse, however, some good results, where the roads happen to lie in directions really serviceable—they are in general excellent, those maintained by turnpikes being usually the worst.

Proceeding from the roads to the general surface of the country, we must not omit to mention the bogs—not the least remarkable among the natural productions of Ireland. They are very different, both in appearance and qualities, to what is generally understood by the term in England. The soil of the English marshes, we are informed by Mr. Young,* the celebrated agriculturist, is “a black spongy moor of *rotten* vegetable matter:” that of the Irish bogs, on the contrary, consists of “*inert* vegetable matter, covered more or less with unproductive vegetables, and containing a large quantity of stagnant water”.† The difference is, according to an eminent statistical writer,‡ that the rotten vegetable matter of the one produces unrivalled crops of grass, corn, &c. while the inert vegetable matter of the other throws out no kind of plant useful to man. The bogs, however, are far from being incapable of cultivation; many of them are gradually reclaiming; and at no very distant period, it is

* Annals of Agriculture, vol. xxi. p. 114.

† Davy’s Letter to the Secretary of the Commissioners, Feb. 1811,

‡ Mr. Wakefield.

probable, all traces of their very existence will have disappeared. At present, they are obstacles, it is true, to the extension of a population, already too redundant; and a more serious evil may be the great quantity of land they cover, unproductive, until reclaimed, of necessary food: but both these evils, in the existing situation of the country, are more than balanced by their immense resources in the article of fuel. With the poor, the peat-moss they produce is for this purpose a requisite of life; and the most enviable site for a cotter's cabin is immediately contiguous to a bog. Neither is their vicinity unhealthy; which seems to result from the insoluble and antiseptic qualities of the peat. The growth of this vegetable production is slow in proportion to that of the richer grasses; but its progress to the state of putrefaction immeasurably slower. Centuries after it has ceased to grow, something of its original fibre and texture remains visible; and the growth of one year rising over that of the preceding, time presents the bogs to us, possessing the vast depth to which they now extend. In regard to the sources of their formation, opinions are very various; and all, being founded on very doubtful data, are involved in correspondent uncertainty. Thus much, however, appears highly probable, that their existence may be ascribed to stagnant water, by some accident or convulsion of nature confined to particular places. It is farther likely, that the immediate causes of such stagnation were the immense forests, which, formerly overspreading the island, by their natural decay, or their destruction by earthquakes, or fire communicated to them by the inhabitants, retained, from the recumbent position of their intermingled remains, the water, which otherwise would have fulfilled the purposes of only natural irrigation to the soil; while a portion of their vegetable matter, the leaves, branches, &c. advancing rapidly to the state of putrefaction, formed the primary ground-work of the bog. And, in one point of view, this theory is confirmed by

the circumstance, that immense trunks of trees are still frequently found buried in the moss, with their under sides entire; their upper parts, judged to have been exposed to the weather until the moss gradually rose over them, having partially suffered from corruption. But a considerable difficulty occurs here, if it is asked *why* a portion only of the primeval forests should have submitted to dissolution—and if it be answered that a difference in the ages of the trees, or the action of strong winds, will account for this—how the dissolution of a part should have generated a matter, in itself originally composed of putrid elements, which, notwithstanding, should be found a preventive to the dissolution of the remainder? In reply to the latter query, nothing in the least satisfactory has been stated, unless by Mr. Kirwan, who observes, that wherever trees are found in bogs, though the wood may be perfectly sound, the *bark* of the timber has uniformly disappeared; and that the decomposition of this bark forms a considerable part of the nutritive substance of morasses. But Mr. Aiton,* on the contrary, contends that the bark is by no means uniformly found to have disappeared from fossil trees, “at least on the under side,” where, it is clear, as the under side of the wood is invariably in the best state of preservation, its decomposition must have been most complete, if to that were to be attributed the chief agency in the tree’s indissolubility. From all which it appears, that this subject is yet far from being undivested of its obscurities: yet nothing is more certain than the existence of a singularly antiseptic quality in these bogs; some curious instances of which will appear in the body of our work.

Ireland has been supposed to be peculiarly rich in minerals; and the whole island is said to be supported on an immense rock, or bed, of granite, which is seen bursting out from some of the high and primitive mountains. Precious stones, such as jaspers, amethysts,

* Treatise on Moss.

crystals, &c. have been discovered in various parts; together with good marble; and an abundance, on the northern coast, in the most awful and stupendous forms, of that singular though comparatively useless production of nature, basaltes; a more particular description of which will be found in our account of the Giant's Causeway. Iron is abundant; and iron-works, so long as the woods supplied fuel for smelting, were extensive in this country. Lead, copper, silver, and even gold, have been met with in various places; but, were they ever so abundant, little profit could be made of their farther discovery, from the general want of wood for fuel.

Yet that the woods of Ireland formerly waved over its entire surface, will appear probable from some of our previous remarks; and that this was really once the fact, is proved from authentic records. But much, as in every country of Europe, was destroyed for the purpose of extending tillage, as the population gradually advanced; and here, as in all rude states, at early periods of society, wood, doubtless, was employed to a wasteful extent for firing. The evils resulting from such practices are perceived, by well-ordered governments, and their effects in a great measure obviated, long before their several countries arrive to that excess of nakedness in this particular, for which Ireland has been many years conspicuous. Here too the neglect of planting is the more to be deplored, as in no country in the world do trees rise more luxuriantly: their absence necessarily gives a baldness to the views, in many parts, by magnitude and grandeur themselves not easily compensated. Notwithstanding, the mountain, lake, and coast scenery, are not to be surpassed in Europe; and many are the spots of gentler loveliness, to which the pencil can impart no added charm, while the unassisted pen must very inadequately describe them.

The general richness of the soil may be inferred from the abundant results of its worthless management; as well

as from the species of produce most common. The very general cultivation of flax is of itself a proof of this fertility; as it is a plant which, in poor land, never attains to perfection. No great diversity, in regard to soil, obtains throughout the island. But it may be remarked, that sand is to be met with only in places on the shore; that clay is rare, and chalk unknown; though the general sub-soil of the country is limestone, or calcareous gravel.

The climate is more equably temperate than that of England; the summers are cooler, the winters warmer, than ours; but showers are much more frequent, owing to the prevalence of the westerly and south-westerly winds, which collect the vapours of the vast Atlantic Ocean.

On the subject of antiquities we shall dilate as we go along; they are abundant, and some of them peculiar to the island. It may be observed, however, that their number tells audibly the “tale of the times of old;” and forces upon us the idea of the long-lost happiness and prosperity of Erin: while it need not be concealed, that though the *pointed order* prevails in the ruins of its religious buildings, yet that in general these bespeak an era, when it had become shorn of its elegant simplicity:—of this more, in relation to the numerous remains of abbies, &c. we shall have occasion to describe.

Many modifications of these our general remarks, will occur in the course of the “Excursions”—particularly in regard to the cities and towns, as yet wholly unnoticed—and many exceptions must be made to our general strictures on men, places, and things: but of this our readers may be assured, that we will “nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice;” and, in the mean-time, we solicit their attention to our view of the extent, topographical and ecclesiastical divisions, of the country, previously to their embarking with us, from Liverpool or Holyhead, for Dublin.

LENGTH.—Greatest, from north-east to south-west, or from the two most remote points, Fair-head, in the

county of Antrim, to Mizen-head, in Cork, 241 Irish, or rather more than 306 English statute miles,

Greatest, *along a meridian line*, or from the Stags of Cork harbour, to Bloody-Farland Point, in Donegal, 185 Irish, or 235½ English miles.

BREADTH.—Greatest, from Emlagh-Rash, in Mayo, to Carnsore Point, in Wexford, 163 Irish, or 207 English miles.

Greatest, *nearly on a parallel of latitude*, from Emlagh-Rash, to the mouth of-Strangford Lough, county of Down, 142 Irish, or 182 English miles.

Ireland is therefore, next to Britain, the largest island in Europe: yet there is not a spot on its surface fifty miles from the sea,—Its geographical boundaries are the Atlantic Ocean on its northern, western, and southern sides; and the Irish Sea, or St. George's Channel, on its eastern.

SUPERFICIAL CONTENTS.—32,201 English square miles; 12,722,615 Irish acres; 20,437,974 English acres.

NOTE.—1760 yards make an English, 2240 an Irish mile: 11 Irish miles are equal to 14 English. 4840 square yards make an English, 7840 an Irish acre: 121 Irish acres are equal to 196 English.

Measures (and weights also) differ in almost every place even in the same county.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DIVISION.

PROVINCES.—Four: Leinster, Munster, Ulster, and Connaught; divided into 32 counties; subdivided into 252 baronies; and the baronies into 2436 parishes; as follows:—

ULSTER,

Comprising the nine northern counties: viz.

	Baronies. Parishes.	
Antrim, containing .	8 .	77
Armagh	5 .	20
Cavan	7 .	30
Donegal	5 .	42
Down	8 .	60

	Baronies.	Parishes.
Fermanagh	8 .	18
Londonderry	4 .	31
Monaghan	5 .	19
Tyrone	4 .	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	54	332
	<hr/>	<hr/>

LEINSTER,

Comprising the *twelve* eastern counties: viz.

Carlow, containing .	5 .	50
Dublin	6 .	87
—— City	0 .	20
Kildare	10 .	113
Kilkenny	9 .	127
King's County . . .	11 .	52
Longford	6 .	23
Louth	4 .	61
Meath	12 .	147
Queen's County . .	8 .	50
Westmeath	12 .	62
Wexford	8 .	142
Wicklow	6 .	58
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	97	992
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CONNAUGHT,

Comprising the *five* western counties: viz.

Galway, containing .	16 .	116
Leitrim	5 .	17
Mayo	9 .	68
Roscommon	6 .	56
Sligo	6 .	39
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	42	296
	<hr/>	<hr/>

MUNSTER,

Comprising the *six* southern counties: viz.

Clare, containing .	9 .	79
Cork	16 .	269

	Baronies.	Parishes.
Kerry	8	83
Limerick	9	125
Tipperary	10	186
Waterford	7	74
	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 816
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Summary.

Ulster	54	332
Leinster	97	992
Connaught	42	296
Munster	59	816
	<hr/> 252	<hr/> 2436
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The parishes are again divided into town-lands, plough-lands, kneeves, cantrons, &c.

ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION.

Protestant Establishment.

PROVINCES.—Four: Armagh, Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam; subdivided into 32 dioceses; containing 33 deaneries, and 34 archdeaconries.

The province of **ARMAGH** contains *ten* dioceses: archbishoprick of Armagh, bishopricks of Dromore, Down and Connor (united), Derry, Raphoe, Clogher, Kilmore, Ardagh,* and Meath.—663 parishes, 446 churches.

The province of **DUBLIN** contains *five* dioceses: archbishoprick of Dublin, bishopricks of Kildare, Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin (united).—658 parishes, 217 churches.

The province of **CASHEL** contains *eleven* dioceses: archbishoprick of Cashel and bishoprick of Emly (united), bishopricks of Waterford and Lismore (united), Cork

* Though in this province, *Ardagh* is at present annexed to the archbishoprick of *Tuam*.

and Ross (united), Cloyne, Limerick united with Ard-fert and Aghadoe, Killaloe and Kilfenora (united).—839 parishes, 254 churches.

The province of TUAM contains *six* dioceses: archbishoprick of Tuam, bishopricks of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh (united), Elphin, Killala, and Achonry.—876 parishes, 87 churches.

The dioceses are here given according to contiguity—not rank: for the Bishop of Meath has precedence of all Bishops, and next to him the Bishop of Kildare; the other Bishops according to the dates of their consecration. The Archbishop of Armagh is Lord Primate and Metropolitan of *all* Ireland; the Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Primate of Ireland; the Archbishop of Cashel, Lord Primate of Munster; and the Archbishop of Tuam, Lord Primate of Connaught. The Archdeacons in Ireland have no visitatorial jurisdiction; but the Bishops hold their visitations annually, and the Archbishop visits his suffragans every third year.

Roman Catholic Church.

FOUR ARCHBISHOPRICKS.—Taking their titles, as in the established church, from Armagh, Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam.

TWENTY-TWO BISHOPRICKS.—*Eight* of whose Bishops are suffragans to ARMAGH: viz. those of Ardagh, Clogher, Derry, Down and Connor, Dromore, Kilmore, Meath, and Raphoe. *Three*, suffragans to DUBLIN: viz. Leighlin and Ferns, Kildare, and Ossory. *Six*, suffragans to CASHEL: viz. Ardferf and Aghadoe, Cloyne and Ross, Cork, Killaloe, Limerick, and Waterford and Lismore. *Four*, suffragans to TUAM: viz. Achonry, Clonfert, Elphin, and Killala. *One*, alternately suffragan to Tuam and Cashel—the Bishop of Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora.

The revenues of the catholic sees are, beyond all comparison, inferior to those of the establishment: indeed,

scarcely adequate to the decent maintenance of their several Bishops.

To these we subjoin a Glossary of such Irish words as most frequently occur in composition with the modern names of places; and a Table, shewing the comparative value of English and Irish currency.

GLOSSARY.

<i>Agh</i> , a field	<i>Donagh</i> , a church
<i>Ana</i> , <i>Anagh</i> , or <i>Awin</i> , a river	<i>Drom</i> , a narrow ridge of heights or considerable hills
<i>Ard</i> , an elevated spot, or rising ground	<i>Inch</i> , or <i>Inis</i> , an island
<i>Ath</i> , a ford	<i>Ken</i> , a head
<i>Ballin</i> , or <i>Bally</i> , a town, or any inclosure of habitations	<i>Kill</i> , a church, or burial-place
<i>Ban</i> , <i>Bane</i> , white, fair	<i>Knock</i> , a single hill, or hillock
<i>Beg</i> , little	<i>Lick</i> , a flat stone
<i>Ben</i> , an abrupt head, or other summit of a mountain	<i>Lough</i> , a lake, sometimes a pool
<i>Bun</i> , a bottom, root, or foun- dation	<i>Magh</i> , a plain
<i>Car</i> , <i>Cahir</i> , a city, or large town	<i>Main</i> , a collection of hillocks
<i>Carrig</i> , <i>Carrick</i> , or <i>Carrow</i> , a stony soil, a rock	<i>More</i> , large, great
<i>Clara</i> , a level, or plain	<i>Rath</i> , an earthen mound, a bar- row; less correctly, a mili- tary entrenchment
<i>Clogh</i> , or <i>Clough</i> , a large stone	<i>Ross</i> , a point or tract of land projecting into a lough or other waters
<i>Clon</i> , a glade, or smooth pas- ture	<i>Shan</i> , old
<i>Croagh</i> , <i>Croghan</i> , a hill pointed at its top	<i>Sliebh</i> , a mountain range, a heathy hill
<i>Col</i> , or <i>Cul</i> , a corner	<i>Tach</i> , a house
<i>Corcagh</i> , or <i>Cork</i> , a bog, fen, or swamp	<i>Temple</i> , a church
<i>Curragh</i> , a marshy plain	<i>Tom</i> , or <i>Toom</i> , a bush
<i>Derry</i> , a clear dry spot situ- ated in a woody swamp	<i>Tobar</i> , or <i>Tubber</i> , a well, a spring
<i>Don</i> , a height, fastness, or for- tress	<i>Tra</i> , a sea-beach, or strand, verge of a river
	<i>Tullagh</i> , a small elevation, ris- ing ground, or common
	<i>Tully</i> , a spot often flooded

TABLE OF CURRENCY.

*English Money exchanged into
Irish, at par: 1£ English be-
ing equal to 1£ 1s. 8d. Irish.*

*Irish Money exchanged into
English, at par: 1£ 1s. 8d.
Irish being but 1£ English.*

Eng.	Irish.			Eng.	Irish.			Ir.	English.			Irish.	English.		
d.	d.	q.	£	£	s.	d.	£	d.	d.	q.	£	£	s.	d.	q.
1	1	0	1	1	1	8	1	0	3		1	0	18	5	2
2	2	0	2	2	3	4	2	1	3		2	1	16	11	0
3	3	1	3	3	5	0	3	2	3		3	2	15	4	2
4	4	1	4	4	6	8	4	3	2		4	3	13	10	0
5	5	1	5	5	8	4	5	4	2		5	4	12	3	2
6	6	2	6	6	10	0	6	5	2		6	5	10	9	0
7	7	2	7	7	11	8	7	6	1		7	6	9	2	3
8	8	2	8	8	13	4	8	7	1		8	7	7	8	1
9	9	3	9	9	15	0	9	8	1		9	8	6	1	3
10	10	3	10	10	16	8	10	9	0		10	9	4	7	1
11	11	3	20	21	13	4	11	10	0		20	18	9	2	3
s.	£	s.	30	32	10	0	s.	s.	d.	q.	30	27	13	10	0
10	1	1	40	43	6	8	1	0	11	0	40	36	18	5	2
20	2	2	50	54	3	4	2	1	10	0	50	46	3	0	3
30	3	3	60	65	0	0	3	2	9	0	60	55	7	8	1
40	4	4	70	75	16	8	4	3	8	1	70	64	12	3	2
50	5	5	80	86	13	4	5	4	7	1	80	73	16	11	0
60	6	6	90	97	10	0	6	5	6	1	90	83	1	6	1
70	7	7	100	108	6	8	7	6	5	2	100	92	6	1	3
80	8	8	200	216	13	4	8	7	4	2	200	184	12	3	2
90	9	9	300	325	0	0	9	8	3	2	300	276	18	5	2
100	10	10	400	433	6	8	10	9	2	3	400	369	4	7	1
110	11	11	500	541	13	4	11	10	1	3	500	461	10	9	0
120	13	0	600	650	0	0	12	11	0	3	600	553	16	11	0
130	14	1	700	758	6	8	13	12	0	0	700	646	3	0	3
140	15	2	800	866	13	4	14	12	11	0	800	738	9	2	3
150	16	3	900	975	0	0	15	13	10	0	900	830	15	4	2
160	17	4	1000	1083	6	8	16	14	9	0	1000	923	1	6	1
170	18	5					17	15	8	1					
180	19	6					18	16	7	1					
191	0	7					19	17	6	1					

EXCURSION I.

By the Holyhead Packet to Dublin—the Bay—Peninsula and Isthmus of Howth—Dalkey Island—The Pier—Village of Ringsend—General Observations on the City, &c.

PREFERRING the route to Welsh station, the traveller, who now embarks with the mail in the morning, at the period of our first visit to Ireland went on board in the evening, and generally, if the wind was fair, arrived in sight of Dublin soon after sunrise on the next day. Approached at this early hour, the view is singularly beautiful. Entering the capacious bay, whose points are, to the northward the promontory of Howth, and to the southward Dalkey Island, the city appears immediately in front; and, if the smoky clouds have not yet enveloped it, though it must seem wanting in steeples and other elevated buildings, it is a pleasing and interesting object. On the left of the bay is seen a rich well-cultivated bank, covered with villages and cottages, and extending from the suburbs to the rocky isle of Dalkey, crowned with a martello tower: among the villages we clearly discover Bullock with its antique castle, Dunleary, and Black-rock: behind them the eye wanders over a delightful variety of villas, woods, and pastures, spread over a country, whose surface,

diversified by gentle risings, ascends gradually to the Wicklow mountains, which, placed as a termination to the view, rise to considerable heights, and fade into the purple of distance. On the right or northward side, the bold peninsula of Howth, from its elevation and two light-houses forming a fine land-mark by day and night, rises precipitately to the view. Its appearance is that of intermingled rocks and heath; among which, in a situation seemingly inaccessible, is seen a neat villa, whose walls of cheerful white, surrounded by a few acres of bright green pasture, reclaimed from the darker waste, have a very enlivening effect. To the promontory, continuing our approach, succeeds the low sandy isthmus of Howth; beyond which tower the picturesque islet-rock called Ireland's Eye, and, at a greater distance, the isle of Lambay. The remainder of the north shore, though low, is studded with houses, either single or in groupes, and generally white, to the water's edge; these are backed by a fine country, swelling into graceful eminences, and varied with wood and villas, (among which is Marino, the architectural *bijou* of the late Lord Charlemont,) till the perspective mingles with the horizon.—The general view of the bay has been compared with that of the bay of Naples; and Dublin, it must be acknowledged, suffers little by the comparison. Still advancing, the stranger is struck with the appearance of commercial activity in the harbour; the range of shipping extending nearly a mile into the city, and their masts resembling a forest.—But in our approach to the land of *Bulls*, we must not omit a slight notice of two large and dangerous sand-banks, lying under the opposite coasts of the bay, and, with the distinction of north and south, called by this name. Presenting themselves to the stranger on his arrival, among the first objects he sees, and being frequently the very first names that he hears, they have become the occasion of national sarcasm, applied to Irish blunders in general,

on the supposition of a blunder in appropriating the term *bulls* to *sand-banks*. But certain it is, that more is meant than meets the ear in an expression, which may be traced by analogy to the ancient language* of the inhabitants—a language always excessively figurative—being derived from the *bellowing* of the waves, which, at particular times of the tide, roll over them (particularly the north bank) with a loud and continued roar.†

At the eastern point of the south Bull, at a distance of more than three miles from the city, commences the truly noble pier, supporting at its extremity a handsome light-house, built of hewn granite, in the form of a truncated cone. This building was begun in 1761 and finished in 1768: its foundation consists of large blocks of stone, laid in an immense caisson; it was strengthened subsequently to its erection by an exterior sloping buttress of solid masonry, 25 feet wide at the bottom, to enable it to resist the fury of the south-eastern storms, which are here tremendous; a circumstance which, added to the great depth of the water, called forth all the care and talents of the very ingenious architect. It has three stories, separated by firm stone arches, and an iron gallery surrounding it on a level

* In *Cluian-Taribh*, literally “the Bay of the Bull,” but the modern *Clontarf*, which lies behind the great northern sand-bank.

† In further justification of the term, it has been ingeniously observed that Homer adopts the word βόωσιν, from βῆς, a bull, for the same reason:

Ἡῖόνες βόωσιν ἐρεύγμενης ἄλος ἔξω. IL.

While Cowper, his most literal translator, as though in despair of attaining to the beauty of this word in the original, endeavours but to imitate it, thus:

As when within some deep-mouthed river's bed
The stream and ocean clash—on either shore
Loud sounds the roar of waves ejected wide.

Those who have passed between the Bulls, and witnessed the conflict of the stream and ocean at certain times of the flood-tide, even in the calmest weather, will acknowledge the accuracy of Homer's onomatopœia, and Cowper's paraphrase.

with the upper one: this gallery is ascended by an exterior and winding stone stair-case with an iron balustrade: an octagonal lanthorn surmounts the whole, lighted by large oil lamps, aided by reflecting lenses. From this light-house to the entrance of the bay are $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, so that the whole distance from the entrance to the village of Ringsend, where the pier terminates, is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Without the entrance of the harbour is a bar, two miles long by half a mile broad, formed by an accumulation of sand from the north Bull, the projection from which gradually declines to the south-westward: the least depth of water upon this bar, at low-water spring tides, is only five feet. A flag rises from the light-house at half-flow of the tide, to give notice that there is depth for ships to pass it: this is lowered again at half-ebb; and at night a small light appears under the larger one, for the same purpose, and during the same interval.*

From the relative positions of the Bulls and bar just described, the danger from eastern or south-eastern storms to vessels embayed here, must be evident; for, should the bar happen not to be passable at such times, and the anchors of such vessels unfortunately drag, they are in the most imminent danger of being wrecked on the sands which stretch from Howth to Dunleary. From these circumstances, this noble bay has been the scene of numerous and melancholy losses; but, as the bar is

* An ingenious piece of mechanism invented by the late Dr. M'Mahon, a Roman catholic clergyman, to whom the public are much indebted, deserves notice here; it is simply a wooden frame, with the accompaniment of a bell. When the tide has risen to the proper height for passing the bar, the bell, operated upon by the elevation of the water, tolls the signal when to notify that circumstance to the shipping off the harbour. Besides this machine, which of course is particularly serviceable at night, the general tide-tables for the bay, constructed after a labour of three years by the Doctor, and adopted by the Commissioners both of the Custom-house and Coast-office, are a work which entitles him to the gratitude of the present generation and of posterity.

the chief obstacle to the security of the harbour, and as it appears the Directors General of Inland Navigation conceive it possible to effect its entire removal, it is to be hoped that in future such occurrences will be less frequent. One part of the plan distinguished by the approbation of these gentlemen, is the projection of a new pier from the shore of Clontarf, on the northern side of the bay, to the southern point of the north Bull; which now forming, at the distance of a quarter of a mile from the light-house, the opposite boundary to the entrance-channel of the harbour, is marked for the guidance of mariners by the spit-buoy. A light-house is farther proposed at this point; and, should the plan be fully carried into execution, the total exclusion of the north Bull, (the ingress of the south being prevented by the present pier,) and the expeditious clearance of the sands by the compressed force of the ebb-current against the bar, assisted by ballast-vessels at the proper stations, would, it is supposed, soon render the port of Dublin one of the safest, as well as one of the grandest, in Europe.

The pier was begun in 1748, and when finished on the original plan, extended 7938 feet from Ringsend to the building called the Pigeon-house. It was at first constructed merely with frames and piles; but in 1755 the double stone wall, enclosing the present spacious and elevated road, was completed. The frame-work and piles were afterwards extended 9816 feet farther into the sea; not in a right line with the first pier, but forming with it a very obtuse angle, and still following the edge of the sands which determine the southern margin of the harbour. In consequence of the expense of keeping this work in repair, a wall was commenced in its stead in 1761, and carried inwards from the light-house, (which was first built,) until completed in 1768. Thus a pier, the first in magnitude in the empire, and in that respect not to be equalled probably in the world, was gradually erected: it is truly a work that would

reflect honour on any age or nation. One singularity attached to it is, that its walls are constructed of large blocks of hewn mountain granite, *without cement*; the stones being alternately headers and stretchers, so dove-tailed into each other, that no single one can be dislodged without absolutely breaking it. The pier thus forms a solid mass 32 feet broad at bottom, and 28 at top: its whole length, including the part last erected, being, as already stated, upwards of three miles. For the accommodation of the packets, a basin, 900 feet by 450, was constructed at the Pigeon-house, where passengers land; and an elegant hotel erected there for their reception.* On the east and south sides of this basin are fortifications, intended by government to afford security to the public archives upon any sudden emergency; a battery of 24-pounders defends the approach by the south wall; guns of the same weight are either mounted on carriages or ranged along the pier; and in barracks built here for a garrison, a body of artillery are constantly lodged in readiness. The travellers may either quit the Pigeon-house by the *Long-coach* (which will convey 16 inside and outside passengers, with their luggage,) or make his selection from among the *Jingles*,† which in general are clamorously proffered, at a variety of prices, by their ill-dressed and squalid-looking drivers. Passing through the decayed village of Ringsend, conspicuous only for its salt-works constantly enveloped in smoke, the approach to the city, contrasted with the

* The Holyhead packets now landing their passengers at the new harbour behind the hill of Howth, this basin is little used, except by the Liverpool packets, which proceed as formerly to the Pigeon-house; and the Hotel (never opened as such) has been purchased by government, and is converted into offices for the board of ordnance. We have chosen to describe the *old* approach to Dublin from Holyhead, as the more picturesque and interesting.

† These vehicles obtain their name from their ringing sound when in motion. They hold six persons, who sit sideways, face to face; they have lofty springs, and are four-wheeled carriages, uniformly drawn by a single horse. These, and the *jaunting cars*, are peculiar to the city of Dublin.

beautiful scenery of the bay, is exceedingly disappointing. The appearance of the north and south walls,* is here calculated only to excite ideas of ruin and decay; the marshes reclaimed by these erections from the sea, are as yet destitute of buildings; while the houses on the quay, being with a few exceptions old and neglected, look mean and sombre. As we advance, however, the numerous fine public buildings, and some elegant streets, have a powerful tendency to remove these first impressions; and imperceptibly we begin to consider Dublin, what in these respects it certainly is, as fully entitled to its station among the proudest capitals of Europe.

On a general view of the city, one advantage it possesses over London is immediately apparent—its spacious quays, extending along both sides of the river; which latter, running nearly due east and west, divides Dublin into two unequal parts; the southern section being the most extensive. Eight bridges preserve the communication between the opposite shores. The handsomest parts of the city, are those to the north-east and south-east; the former, more particularly, being airy, elegant, and, to say all in a word, the ‘west end of the town’ of Dublin. But the part properly the western end of this city, denominated by the citizens the *Liberty*, is a complete contrast to the portion of the English metropolis so called; and not less conspicuously so to its own spacious squares and streets in the situations just described. The streets in this quarter are mostly narrow; the lanes and alleys numerous; and the far greater number of the houses, which are excessively crowded together, occupied by small tradesmen, artisans, the working poor, and beggars; from thirty to fifty, selected from which classes, are often resident in the same habitation; and the accumulation of filth, stench, and every variety of wretchedness resulting from this union of obnoxious

* Built about the year 1711, to confine the channel of the river Anna Liffey (which enters the bay at Ringsend) to its embankments.

circumstances, as well as from some peculiarly offensive habits in the people, is scarcely conceivable.* Two, three, and even four families, consisting of persons of all ages and sexes, are known to club together as joint-tenants, for the purpose of defraying the rent of a single apartment in one of these distressful styles. Not that the scenes of misery induced by modes of existence so nauseating and depraved, are obtrusive, or generally perceptible, to the cursory visitant, who, solely occupied by the grandeur of the public buildings, seldom explores these uninviting abodes; not that numbers even in Dublin itself are so much as conscious of their existence; and we should perhaps shrink from the display of wretchedness so abhorrent, did we not feel it a duty inseparably connected with our undertaking, to place in the true light, and to paint with the colours of reality, every feature in the manners and customs of the people, tending to illus-

* The rears, or back-yards, of these houses are in general the *only* receptacles for the ordure and filth of their numerous occupants. Neither are these and similar nuisances confined to the Liberty; many other parts of Dublin abound in objects of disgust of the same kind. But that we may avoid giving instances upon our own authority, we select the following from a thousand that occurred to the late Rev. Mr. Whitelaw, vicar of St. Catherine's in this city, who in 1798 was engaged in taking a general census of the inhabitants. "When he attempted to take the population of a ruinous house in Joseph's-lane, near Castle-market, he was interrupted in his progress by an inundation of putrid blood, alive with maggots, which had, from an adjacent yard, burst the back door, and filled the hall to the depth of several inches: by the help of a plank and some stepping-stones which he procured for the purpose, (for the inhabitants without any concern waded through it,) he reached the stair-case: it had rained violently, and, from the shattered state of the roof, a torrent of water made its way through every floor from the garret to the ground: the sallow looks and filth of the wretches who crowded round him, indicated their situation, though they seemed insensible to the stench which he could scarcely sustain for a few minutes."—"The poor room-keepers were found apparently at ease, and perfectly assimilated to their situation: filth and stench seemed congenial to their nature; they never made the smallest effort to remove them; and if they could answer the calls of hunger, they felt, or seemed to feel, nothing else as an inconvenience."—*Whitelaw and Walsh's History of Dublin.*

trate those gradations from the highest intellectual endowments and the nicest sense of propriety, to the lowest moral and mental debasement, to be found in their actual character. The police of the city is, doubtless, highly reprehensible in the permission of these abuses; and how such nuisances as slaughter-houses, soap-manufactories, carrion-houses, lime-kilns, &c. &c. should have been so long suffered to exist in the very heart of this dense population, it surely might be worth their while to enquire. Liquor-shops, a yet greater evil, are equally abundant in the Liberty: in a particular street, more than one third of the whole number of houses are licensed dealers in that species of poison, which has been proved to be so active a stimulant to vice and disease in their worst forms, and so inimical to the general well-being of the lower orders of society. In regard to paving, lighting, and cleansing, (the latter only in respect to the high-ways *before* the houses,) Dublin in general must not be accused of remissness; the pavement, in particular, composed in great part of granite from the island of Dalkey, is excellent, and possesses the quality of uncommon durability. The Grand and Royal Canals supply the water-works; and as the Pipe-water Committee have obtained two additional reservoirs from these canals, and have been employed in laying down improved mains in the streets, few cities are likely to be better supplied with an article so necessary to the conveniences of life.

In immediate contiguity with Dublin is its circular road; which, extending to the length of nearly nine miles, with the exception of a short space and a bridge wanted on the eastern side, surrounds the city: the views from various parts of the circuit, particularly that near Summer-hill, of the Wicklow mountains, the hills of Dalkey and of Howth, the bay, and the islands of Ireland's Eye and Lambay, is delightful.—But we shall comment more at large upon these particulars in the separate

view we purpose taking of every object of interest in our Excursions through the city and its environs; at present we must content ourselves with more general remarks.

The high antiquity of Dublin is indisputable: that it was a place of some importance even 1600 years back is not to be questioned, since Ptolemy, who wrote A. D. 140, mentions it under the name of *Eblana Civitas*, and places it nearly under its actual parallel. Circumstances relative to it in the year 191 occur also in the Irish historians; and in King Edgar's charter,* dated at Gloucester in 964, it is called 'the most noble city of Dublin.' From the fact that hurdles anciently afforded the only means of access to the lower parts of the town next the river, the Irish to this day give it the appellation of *Ath-Cliath*, the ford of hurdles; and *Bally-Ath-Cliath*, the town on the ford of hurdles.† *Eblana*, from which the modern Dublin is derived, is a corruption, it has been conjectured, of the true word *Deblana*, which in the ancient British signifies black water, or a black channel; the water of the Liffey having, from the boggy nature of its bottom, been discoloured.‡ By some natives of the county it is still called *Divelin*, and by the Welsh *Dinas Dulin*, or the city of Dulin.

As to its original inhabitants, there is little doubt that they were the Eblani, or Deblani, who in all probability migrated from the opposite coast of Wales. The Milesians from Spain also arrived here at a remote period; but it is universally agreed that the Ostmen, or Danes, first gave to Dublin the appearance of a regular city, by strong buildings and fortifications previously unknown in the island.—The date of this event is uniformly stated to be the ninth century.

Some remnants, it is believed, of the walls latest erected

* The authenticity of this charter has been doubted; with what reason it is not for us to determine.

† See Glossary in our Historical and Descriptive Sketch.

‡ Baxter; Glossar. verb. *Deblana*.

by these people, are yet visible. From the best accounts it appears that their greatest compass was not quite a mile Irish. Yet in the reign of Charles I. it is certain, from the authority of a record in the Rolls Office, that "void grounds," "gardens," "orchards," and "tenements covered with thatch," occupied parts even of this contracted space. Remembrances of the sites of the different gates, by which inlets to the city were given through the walls, are yet preserved; and are individually specified in the elaborate work of Whitelaw and Walsh before referred to.

The first buildings in Dublin were constructed of wattle-work, plastered with clay, and roofed with straw, or flags from the margin of the river. The royal palace, of Henry II., in which that King and the Irish Princes kept their Christmas in 1172, was an erection of *smoothed wattles*; the workmanship, it is true, of unusual elegance. A little before the reign of Elizabeth, the citizens adopted a mode of building more durable and convenient; namely, that of timber in the cage-work style, sufficiently ornamented, and roofed substantially. A house erected after this manner in that Queen's time, was still standing in Cook-street in 1745; but was then taken down to afford space for new buildings. In Rosemary-lane, leading from that street to Merchant's Quay, part of a cage-work house, bearing the date of 1600, cut in the timber, was to be seen in 1766; as well as several houses of this description, of considerable antiquity, but without dates, in Patrick-street. The only specimen of this style of building remaining so late as 1812, occurred at the corner of Castle-street and Werburgh-street: it was then in good preservation, but, being from its situation a public nuisance, was demolished by order of the Commissioners of Wide Streets, and the materials sold for £40. The frame-work was of Irish oak, and, from the date in front, it appeared to have been erected in the reign of Edward II.; the arms were

those of the Fitzgerald family. Oliver Cromwell, according to tradition, occupied this house while he was in Dublin. It is somewhat singular, as a proof of the superior durability of the cage-work houses, that none of the erections in the time of Elizabeth's successor, James, in which brick and stone were first adopted, are thought to be standing at this day.

During the period that has elapsed subsequently to these reigns, many changes have taken place in the appearance of Dublin, both within and without the ancient walls. Several of the streets and lanes mentioned by Ware, Stanihurst, and others, have either totally disappeared, or have suffered such alterations in their names as render them very difficult to be recognised. In 1610, as appears from Speed's plan of that date, but few buildings were to be seen on the north side of the river; and indeed the entire space now occupied by the new Custom-house, the Batchelor's Walk, the Ormond and other Quays, was then (the Liffey being only embanked on its southern side,) overflowed by its waters, a small part only about the King's Inns, which had been a monastery of Dominican friars, excepted. This quarter of the city was at that time called Ostman-Town, since corrupted into Oxman-Town; its eastern boundary was St. Mary's Abbey, its western the church of St. Michan. Grange-Gorman, Stoney-batter, and Glassmanogue, then villages so remote from the city that the sheriffs were accustomed, for their security during seasons of the plague, to hold their courts in the latter, are now united to it. The north-eastern part of this tract is occupied by Mountjoy and Rutland squares, with many noble streets, of which at that time not a trace was in existence.

South of the Liffey, many enlargements also appear to have been made. Crane-lane, Essex-street, Temple-bar, Fleet-street, &c. were formerly within the channel of the Liffey, and a large tract of land, comprehending George's Quay, the City Quay, Sir John Rogerson's

Quay, together with the ground taken up by the Grand Canal Docks, have also been recovered from that river. Of a village called Hogges, lying to the eastward, the only relic is the street called Hogg-hill. Hoggin Green, mentioned by Irish historians as a place where criminals were commonly executed, is now entirely occupied by buildings; though the same space, at the period alluded to, contained only the little village just mentioned, the site of a nunnery founded there by Dermod Mac Morogh about the year 1146, a bridewell for vagrants, and an hospital on the spot where now stands the Bank of Ireland, College Green, and St. Andrew's Church are situated on parts of this ancient green.

Westward, the space between Thomas-street and the river was open, and through it ran a stream on which some mills were erected; while southward of the city wall, a very small part only of the now populous tract called the Liberty existed in 1610. Accessions to the extent of Dublin, it consequently appears, have been made in every direction; and its additions in point of splendour and magnificence have been yet more considerable.

While on the subject of antiquities, we must briefly mention, that St. Mary's Abbey, the site of which in Speed's plan has been alluded to, was a foundation of the Ostmen, or Danes, about the year 948, and the first-fruits of their conversion to the Christian faith. In 1718, the body of a prelate in his robes, was found in digging up the ruins of this abbey; it bore no traces of corruption, yet was supposed to have been that of Felix O'Ruadan, Archbishop of Tuam, who was buried here in 1238. An image of the Virgin Mary, with the infant Jesus in her arms, formerly belonging to the abbey, is still to be seen at the Roman catholic chapel, St. Mary's Lane.* The Abbey of St. Thomas

* A part of the abbey itself, consisting of four arches, with walls three feet nine inches thick, perforated by Gothic windows, is now in the occupation of Mr. Maziere, sugar-baker, Mary's Abbey, form-

stood in that part of the city now called Thomas-court: it was founded for canons of the congregation of St. Victor, by William Fitz-Andelm, butler to King Henry the Second. The Priory of St. John the Baptist was in Thomas-street, and originally an hospital for the sick, founded about the end of the twelfth century by Ailred le Palmer. A Roman catholic chapel is erected on part of the site of this priory; which, besides the infirmary containing fifty beds for the sick, was appropriated to both friars and nuns. Here were wrought the vestments for the friars of Thomas-court, for the Franciscans in Francis-street, and for the university of St. Patrick; and a tenth of the wool and flax spun by these religious, was the customary reward of their labours. The Priory of All-Saints stood on that part of Hoggin Green now called Stephen's Green, and was founded in 1166 by Dermod, son of Murchard, King of Leinster, for canons of the order of Aroasia. The Friary of St. Saviour, or Black Friars, founded previously to the year 1218 by William Mareschall, Earl of Pembroke, "for the health of his soul and that of his wife," was situate in Ostmantown, on the spot now called the King's Inns, where that elegant building the Courts of Law, with other offices, form so conspicuous an appearance from the opposite side of the river. The Augustine Friary of the Holy Trinity, a very considerable foundation, and the general college for all the friars of that order in Ireland, may date about the year 1259: on its site Crow-street, with its Theatre Royal, now stands. The Carmelite Monastery of White Friars occupied the ground where Aungier-street, White-friars, Longford-street, &c. have been built substituting part of his stores. The arches are ten feet high, groined and ribbed; the ribs, formed of blocks of stone resembling Portland or Bath stone, spring in threes from the ground, (which seems to have been raised,) and it is probable they rest upon some capital beneath it. This part of the edifice, which is still very perfect, may have been the chapel of the abbey.

sequently. The Nunnery of St. Mary de Hogges, it has been stated, was founded by Dermot Mac Morogh in the year 1146.

All these, and other religious houses of less note, with the accompaniments of the vast possessions attached to many of them, were granted to various persons, and in a variety of ways, by Henry the Eighth, at the dissolution which took place in the reign of that King.

Of the ancient custom of 'riding the franchises' or bounds of the city of Dublin, a relic is still preserved in the perambulation of the liberties, made by the Lord Mayor and city officers every third year.* From an inspection of the records and manuscripts extant relative to this practice, the great increase of the city in modern times is apparent.

Until within the last 30 years the several corporations, anciently 20, now 25 in number, walked in procession, dressed out in the colours and emblems of

* On these occasions, a form derived from an odd incident is regularly observed. In 1668, Sir Michael Creagh, then Lord Mayor of Dublin, suddenly absented himself from the mayoralty; and a valuable gold collar, which had been presented to the city by Charles the Second eight years previously, was no where to be found. Since when the Knight has been constantly summoned, on the day selected for the perambulation, at the city gates, where courts are opened for that special purpose by proclamation, in the following terms: "Sir Michael Creagh, Sir Michael Creagh, Sir Michael Creagh, come and appear at this court of our Lord the King, holden before the right honourable Lord Mayor of the city of Dublin, or you will be outlawed." At Essex gate this is repeated nine times: but as Sir Michael has never thought proper to appear, or to return the collar, the city has now in its possession another collar, obtained from William the Third, by Bartholomew Vanhomrigh, a Dutch merchant, who was Lord Mayor in 1697. This is worn by the chief magistrate to the present time, and was at the time of its donation valued at £1000.

On this day the populace of the Liberty likewise avail themselves of an ancient privilege. When the Lord Mayor with his followers arrives at the street called the Cross Poddle, part of which is beyond the bounds of his jurisdiction, a number of the inhabitants obstruct his passage until he has surrendered his sword, which is not returned without a present received from his Lordship, accompanied with a promise to release a prisoner.

their trades, on this as well as on their respective patrons' days; a ceremonial substituted for the pageants, plays, and religious interludes, anciently represented by them, but which began to grow into disuse soon after the Reformation. The more modern processions are also now discontinued.

For many years after the settlement of the English in Dublin, the inhabitants were liable to perpetual disturbances from the vicinity of the native Irish to the pale: for which reason the military forces of the city, anciently composed from the 20 corporations, were regularly mustered and exercised four times a year. Some signal actions were performed by them, and considerable losses occasionally sustained; particularly on Easter Monday, A. D. 1209, which in melancholy remembrance was afterwards called *Black Monday*, and one of the musters appointed on that day. For the Bristolines of Dublin, to whom Henry the Second originally granted the city, having introduced the sport called *hurling of balls* among the citizens, a considerable number of them met for this diversion on Easter Monday, near Cullen's Wood, two miles distant from the city. They went unarmed, reckoning upon their previous reduction of 'the rebels,' as they designated the Irish; but the latter, having notice of the citizens' intention, marched down privately from the mountains, secreted themselves in the wood, and, when their enemies were fatigued with their laborious sport, suddenly fell upon and killed upwards of 500 of them. It was even necessary to replenish the city by a new colony from Bristol; who for ages after memorialized this misfortune, by marching with a black banner carried in their front, to Cullen's Wood, upon every Easter Monday; and there displayed their arms, and bade defiance to the Irish.*

* For much valuable information relative to the antiquities, &c. of Dublin, we are indebted to the large work of Whitelaw and Walsh previously mentioned.

The present corporation of Dublin consists of a Lord Mayor, (denominated Provost in 1308, and first distinguished by his present appellation in 1665,) and 24 aldermen, who form an upper house; and the sheriffs, with the sheriff's peers, not exceeding 48, and the representatives of the 25 guilds, not exceeding 96, who compose the lower house. The aldermen are all magistrates for the city, and, with the Lord Mayor and Recorder, are judges of oyer and terminer for capital offences and misdemeanours committed within the district. The board are chosen for life from among the sheriffs' peers, by the Lord Mayor, aldermen, and common council. The office of chief magistrate is annual.

Of the guilds, the merchants have the precedence, and after them the tailors: the latter, with the carpenters, weavers, goldsmiths, cutlers, and apothecaries, only, have halls appertaining to them respectively. The revenue of the city is £23,000 per annum; yet the expenditure, it is said, regularly exceeds a sum that cannot be considered inadequate to the purposes for which it should be applied.

We must not here omit to notice the Aldermen of Skinner's Alley, who date the institution of their society from the arrival of James II. in 1688. On this occasion the protestant corporation having retired to this alley, (an obscure avenue in the Liberties,) there maintained a semblance of their former state; while the actual authority was vested in the persons of a Lord Mayor and corporation of the Roman-catholic persuasion. The battle of the Boyne restored the 'Protestant Ascendancy' in the city; and, to maintain it, this and similar institutions are still kept up: institutions, against which, however, we must beg leave to protest, as unnecessary excitements to the worst passions in men, uniformly found to have their origin in religious differences. For reasons equally strong, an objection might be taken to

the homage paid to King William himself, so far as it is the object of these institutions; since nothing is more certain than that this homage is often found to rest not on the foundation which really entitles that monarch to the esteem and grateful remembrance of posterity. The officers of the society to whom with all proper deference we apply these remarks, still retain the titles designating the different official dignities of government. They are a Governor, styled "Most Noble," a Deputy Governor, Lord High Treasurer,* Primate, Chancellor, Almoner, Sword and Mace-bearer.

The neglected portion of the city denominated the Liberty, suffers a daily diminution in the remnants of respectability yet preserved by it. Even should any who reside here chance to acquire wealth by the efforts of industry, their speedy removal indicates the flow of all consequence and fashion to the eastward. Many indeed are the inducements to a residence in the latter part of Dublin; and did they consist only in the architectural beauties with which the inhabitants are there surrounded, an apology of this nature could scarcely be advanced on stronger grounds by any citizens in Europe. Many of the buildings are in themselves specimens of the highest excellence in the art; and the scenes presented at several points of view in the city are exceedingly striking.

That from Carlisle Bridge, the easternmost on the river, though not fairly put in competition by the citizens with the view from the *Place-Louis Quinze* at Paris, is worthy of particular notice. On the north we have the grand perspective of Sackville-street, (one of the noblest in Europe,) terminated by the Rotunda, and ornamented by the new Post-office and the central pillar erected to the memory of Nelson. To the south, at the end of Westmoreland-street, on the one side appears the perspective façade of Trinity College, on the other that of the Bank—the part formerly the House of Lords.

* This office has been discontinued in the government of the country.

To the east, the front of the Custom-house, an oblique but striking view; and the river itself, which, at high water, confined within its walls of granite, and bearing on its bosom vessels of 500 tons burden, makes an appearance more than correspondent with its breadth. Westward, on either bank fine quays stretch to a long extent, connected by numerous handsome bridges; that in the fore-ground, consisting of a single elegant arch, is of course conspicuous. Such an assemblage of imposing objects as are here enumerated, presented from a single point of view, is perhaps in few cities to be met with; while at College Green the spectator must be almost equally impressed with an union of beauty and grandeur far from common. Here the extensive front of Trinity College, the unequalled portico of the national Bank, (the noblest structure Dublin has to boast,) Daly's Club-house, the Commercial-buildings, and the equestrian statue of William III. upon its lofty pedestal, have an effect, which to be properly appreciated must be seen.

The squares, as well as the most spacious and convenient streets, the seat of the vice-regal government, and the different places of amusement lying all eastward, are additional temptations to living in their vicinity. London in miniature here perpetually presents itself to the view; and something more (comparatively) than London in the state, splendour, gaiety, and conviviality of the inhabitants. The society is excellent; in the more select circles, particularly, the polish and vivacity of Paris, joined to the wit, raciness, frankness, and hilarity of Hibernia, produce an admirable *melange*. A change, somewhat for the worse, is said to have taken place in some of these respects, immediately after the Union; resulting from the sudden introduction of the more wealthy traders at the levees of the castle, and in consequence to some distinguished circles from which they had hitherto been excluded; but this circumstance, there

is little doubt, though it originated in the temporary absence of almost all the rank and fashion of the city, which were immediately removed to the British metropolis, contributed eventually, as soon as many distinguished families became again resident, to improve the general tone of society, by a wider assimilation of manners, and a greater extension of liberal ideas. Private visiting parties are more prevalent than public amusements; they are more congenial to the warmth and hospitable turn of the Irish character, and far more conducive to the connection of politeness with the social and endearing charities of life, for which the upper class of the Irish are remarkable. The number of inhabitants attached to the learned professions, the presence of an university and of literary societies, the forms of the vice-royal court, and the intermixture of officers of the garrison with the citizens, have all a tendency to promote the spread of urbanity and the modes of refined intercourse. The constant appearance of military parade, it is true, forcing itself upon the observation in most companies, is apt to give the stranger in Dublin an idea of a mere garrison-town.

As the port of embarkation for the members of parliament and other gentry who most frequently visit England, as well as the spot by which English visitants usually arrive, much enlivening eclat, and the usual concomitants of stir and bustle, become conspicuous in Dublin.* Its trade is besides very considerable; and its exports, in particular, are augmenting.

An idea is very prevalent among the inhabitants, that the English language is spoken in greater purity in their city than in any other throughout the British empire. An opinion this, at which the travelled Englishman, whose recollection probably will furnish him with an instance of the same harmless nationality in the good

* From these causes hotels are also extremely numerous in this city; more so than in London, in proportion to the relative population of each.

citizens of Edinburgh, must be constrained to smile; while perhaps he will recollect 'Love a la Mode,'* and Sir Archy Mac Sarcasm and Sir Callaghan O'Brallaghan, neither of whom "had the brogue." An affectation of every thing English, and a capricious disposition to admire whatever may be in momentary vogue on our side of the channel, are common foibles with the Irish; of little consequence, it may be, in themselves, did they not sometimes lead to illiberal jealousy of native merit and talent, however worthy of distinction and patronage. A jealousy of England itself, we may observe, is often incongruously united to this tacit acknowledgment of the superiority of the sister country.

Of the population of Dublin, no return has been made since 1814; when the total number of inhabitants appeared to be 175,319: in 1798, according to Mr. Whitelaw's census, the whole number was 170,805. But the city, it is now very generally believed, contains not less than 190,000 souls.

Having thus laid before the reader the best information we could obtain by personal observation, or glean from the most authentic sources, upon every important point generally relative to this city, in extent and population the seventh in Europe, we proceed to a particular survey of every object of interest or curiosity in the parishes of St. Werburgh, St. Andrew, St. Mark, and St. Anne; to which we propose limiting our second Excursion.

* Charles Macklin, the author of this comedy, was a native of the city of Dublin.

EXCURSION II.

Through the Parishes of St. Werburgh, St. Andrew, St. Mark, and St. Anne.

SELECTING, from the 19 parishes and two deaneries into which Dublin is ecclesiastically divided, the parish of St. Werburgh, from its central situation, as the area of our first labours, the seat of government denominated the Castle, which it contains, naturally claims the precedence of every other object within its boundaries. This edifice, having been almost entirely rebuilt during the last century, retains so little of its ancient lineaments that the site only can be said to identify the modern palace with the original castellated erection. If any part of the building remain in its primeval form, it is the basement of the Wardrobe-tower, over which an additional story, surmounted by projecting battlements, has been newly erected. The whole now serves as a repository for the statute rolls, the parliamentary, and other national records.

Between this and Birmingham-tower, which has been lately rebuilt, a curtain anciently extended, interrupted by two other nameless towers, one of which has entirely disappeared, and on little more than the foundation of the other is raised an elegant apartment, adapted to the purposes of a cabinet by the government. The old Birmingham-tower remained till 1775; and its demolition in that year proved, from the extraordinary consistency of the cement, a work of considerable difficulty: the present tower, of plain construction, has a lighter appearance, but

was infinitely surpassed in solidity by that to which it has succeeded.

Two strong round towers, called the Gate-towers, between which was the entrance by a draw-bridge, on the north side, from the city into the castle, subsisted until about the middle of the last century; when the present chief entrance from Cork-hill and Castle-street was erected on the side of the easternmost: the western tower was taken down in 1750, to make room for a similar but mock entrance, the only object of which was the preservation of uniformity. This, in November 1757, was decorated with a statue of Fortitude, and the eastern gate with a statue of Justice.

Meiler Fitzhenry, Lord Justice of Ireland about the year 1205, commenced the building of this fortress, (for such it originally was,) by authority of a patent from his sovereign; but as Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin, put the finishing hand to it about the year 1220, to him it has been usual to ascribe the whole honour of its erection. It was, as it remains, of a quadrangular form, surrounded with a broad and deep moat, since filled up, then partly dry and partly flooded by the tide, and a branch of the little river Dodder. The guard of the castle was entrusted to a constable, gentleman-porter, and a body of warders, originally pikemen and archers, who, after the invention of gunpowder, were converted into harquebussiers, or musquetiers, and artillery-men. Thus, until the reign of Elizabeth, when the building became the seat of government, the chief purposes of its maintenance appeared to be those of defence, or the custody of state-prisoners: for the latter objects the two Gate-towers were set apart, and were admirably adapted for it in the great point of security. In 1534, during the rebellion of Thomas Fitzgerald, the castle was twice besieged; and Friar Keating, who was its constable in 1478, having destroyed the draw-bridge, held it out with his warders and other assistants against the then Lord Deputy, Henry Lord

Gray. In 1560, Queen Elizabeth issued her commands to the Lord Deputy and council “to repair and enlarge the castle of Dublin, for the reception of the Chief Governors;” before which time there does not appear to have been any fixed place appropriated to that purpose. But Sir Henry Sidney, who came over as Lord Deputy in 1565, seems not to have been satisfied with what had been done in pursuance of the Queen’s mandate; as, two years after his arrival, he further repaired and beautified the building, which until then, we are informed by Hooker, was “ruinous, foul, filthy, and greatly decayed.” In the reign of this Queen and that of James I. both the courts of the law and the high courts of parliament were occasionally held within the castle walls; a practice which had also obtained previously, and was repeated in the time of Charles I.

The following is an extract of a letter from a Lord Deputy to Mr. Secretary Coke, dated 23rd of October, 1633.

“This castle is in very great decay: I have been
“inforced to take down one of the great towers which
“was ready to fall, and the rest are so crazy, as we are
“still in fear part of it might drop down upon our heads,
“as one tower did, whilst my Lord Chancellor was
“here, and had infallibly killed four or five of his
“grand-children, had it fallen an hour sooner or an hour
“later; I am therefore instantly constrained to fall to
“repair, and pull down what would else forthwith fall
“of itself, it being of absolute necessity to do so, and
“will withall gain some room more than now there is,
“the house not being of receipt sufficient to lodge me
“and my company.

“There is not any stable but a poor mean one, and
“that made of a decayed church, which is such a
“profanation as I am sure His Majesty would not allow
“of; besides, there is a decree in the Exchequer, for
“restoring it to the parish whence it was taken; I

“ have therefore got a piece of ground whereon to build
 “ a new one, the most convenient for the castle in the
 “ world; the foundation is already two yards high, and
 “ it shall be finished by the end of June next, with
 “ granaries and all other conveniences. There will be
 “ room for three score horses, and so many good ones I
 “ have in this town already to fill it, and make up such
 “ a troop of horse, I dare say, as Ireland hath not been
 “ acquainted with.

“ Besides, I have bought as much more ground about
 “ the castle as costs me £150, out of which I will pro-
 “ vide the house of a garden and out-courts for fuel, and
 “ such other necessities belonging to a family, whereof
 “ I am here altogether unprovided; the bake-house in
 “ present being just under the room where I now write,
 “ and the wood-reek just full before the gallery win-
 “ dows; which I take not to be so courtly, nor to suit
 “ so well the dignity of the king’s deputy; and thus I
 “ trust to make this habitation easeful and pleasant as
 “ the place will afford; whereas now, upon my faith, it
 “ is little better than a very prison.”*

Lord Clarendon, also, in 1686, writing to the Lord Treasurer, says of this “no-castle,”—“In good earnest, as it is now, I have no necessary convenient room; no gentleman in the Pall-mall is so ill lodged in all respects, I might add, that the keeping up, that is keeping dry, this pittyful bit of a castle costs an immense deal, of which you shall have a particular account laid before you.”

The vice-regal residence continued in this uncomfortable and unbecoming state to the close of the seventeenth century; since when all the great modern improvements have been made. It now has the appearance of a considerable and very respectable pile of buildings. It is divided into two courts, termed the upper and lower, of which the upper is principal, and contains the state and

* *Strafford’s Letters.*

private apartments of the Lord Lieutenant, with those of his secretaries and suite; and although the whole begins to wear a face of age, yet these courts have an air of grandeur superior to any thing observable in those of the royal palace of St. James's. The upper court is a quadrangle, 280 feet long by 130 broad; the buildings around it are uniform; but still, in our opinion, their general appearance does not correspond with the dignified official situation of their occupant. Neither have the interior apartments any very striking beauty or elegance to recommend them, beyond the ordinary decorations of delegated authority. The throne and canopy, covered with crimson velvet, enriched with gilt carved work, and a profusion of gold lace, are in the presence-chamber, formerly the yeoman's hall. An elegant glass lustre, of native manufactory, purchased by a late Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Rutland, depends from the handsome stucco ceiling of this room.

The object of greatest notoriety among the *citizens*, who find admittance to the levees and festivities of the Castle, (an honour of no very difficult attainment,) is the Ball-room, called, since the institution of the Knights of St. Patrick in 1783, St. Patrick's hall. It is, in truth, a noble apartment, 82 feet long, 41 broad, and 38 high; begun under the viceroyalty of Earl Temple, since Marquis of Buckingham. In a rectangle of the ceiling, the paintings of which have great merit, St. Patrick is seen converting the Irish to christianity in the fifth century: the opposite rectangle (the circle in the middle containing an allegorical design, of which all that can be clearly understood are the figures Liberty, Justice, and George III.,*) represents Henry II. seated' under a canopy, to whom the Irish chieftains are formally tendering their submissions—the grand historical event of 1172. Above the cornice of

* A native writer informs us that the central allegory is meant to allude to "*the present happy and flourishing state of the country,*" derived from the two events recorded in the rectangles. We regret

the room, is a series of devices, whose perspective effect from below is extremely judicious: the whole of these paintings do honour to the fertile composition, truth of drawing, and vivid colouring, conspicuous in the works of their ingenious artist, Mr. Waldre. A gallery for musicians or spectators is raised at each end of the hall.

The lower court of the castle is 250 feet long, by 220 wide; but of irregular form, and in appearance very unequal to the upper one. This court, or lower Castle-yard, as it is frequently called, contains the Treasury, Quarter-Master General's, War Secretary's, and other Offices, with that formerly the Surveyor General's of Lands: the whole inelegant looking buildings, unworthy, as is the Ordnance Office at the eastern side, though containing arms for 40,000 men, of particular remark.

In the present office of the Surveyor General of Lands, removed lately to the Wardrobe-tower, is deposited the remnant of that singular and valuable record called the *to observe our highly to be respected authority for this information thus apparently approving of the painter's preposterous flattery to the government, which, for so long a period after its subjection of his country, treated it as a conquered and enslaved colony. But the artist perhaps had never quitted Dublin!—and consequently had not enjoyed the opportunity of witnessing in the interior of the country the prototype of that "happy and flourishing state," of which he intended to convey an idea to those of his fellow-citizens who 'trip it on the light fantastic toe' in the hall of St. Patrick. Of a piece with this allegory is the language of the author of the "Traveller's Guide for Ireland" (printed at Dublin in 1815) who, with seeming satisfaction, records "the mortification and degradation of redoubted Irish valour," in the sovereign-sway of Dublin for 330 years by the Ostmen; until, he says, they were "entirely annihilated" by "the invincible prowess of the British valour," from which period commenced "Ireland's submission to BRITISH sway." The sovereignty of England from the first moment ought to have been, and for the future we trust will be, a source of blessings only to the sister country; we wish to see the Irish consider it in this light; but the picture of a nation striving to hug the chains of which at length it is in a great measure divested, is to us offensive in the last degree, and we hope the sentiments to which we have adverted are not to be considered as national—or at least as forming a trait in the aristocratical part of the Irish character.*

Down Survey, executed in 1657 under the direction of Sir William Petty, and consisting originally of 31 folios of surveys of lands forfeited in this country by the rebellion of 1641. It delineated nearly 29 of the 32 counties into which Ireland is divided, the omissions being Galway, Roscommon, and a considerable part of Mayo, together with a few baronies. The maps of the surveyed baronies were in number 204; and to these were attached plans on a large scale of their several parishes, notifying also the sub-denominations or town-lands. The whole was authenticated, and constituted a record at the restoration, under the title of [the *Down Survey*, “from its being laid down by maps on paper, prior surveys being generally by estimation only.”*

The present imperfect state of this very curious topographical relic, originated in a fire which took place on the 15th of April, 1711, in the old Surveyor General's Office, Essex-street, where at that time it was deposited. Of the 31 books of which the work consisted, 18 were uninjured by the flames; but of the remaining 13, four were almost totally destroyed, though one other is nearly perfect, and parts of the rest were preserved.

The castle chapel, standing in this court, having become so ruinous as to be unfit for its sacred purposes, it was resolved during the administration of the Duke of Bedford to take it down, and erect on its site a more suitable edifice; which, having been completed in seven years, was opened for divine service on Christmas-day, 1814. Its cost, including the organ, was £42,000. This building, (73 feet long and 35 broad,) is of calpe, or common Irish black stone, consisting of a choir, without either nave or transept: the architecture, which is Gothic, is in a rich and superior style. Seven buttresses, terminating in pinnacles, highly decorated, and springing from four grotesque heads in each,

* Whitelaw and Walsh.

are the supports on either side. A battlement separates the pinnacles; and between the buttresses, on each side, are six pointed windows: a door, in a style uniform with these, appears at the east end, over which the projecting moulding springs on one side from a head of St. Patrick, and on the other from that of the Irish monarch Brian Boromhe. A tablet surmounts it, bearing the legend following.

X

HANC ÆDEM

DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO OLIM DICATAM

VETVSTATE PENITVS DIRVTAM

DENVO EXTRVI IVSSIT

JOHANNES BEDFORDIÆ DVX HIBERNIÆ PROREX

IPSEQVE FVNDAMENTA POSVIT

ANNO A CHRISTO NATO. M. D. CCCVII.

The great east window, of richly ornamented architecture, whose canopy springs from the heads of Hope and Charity, and is decorated at its point by a half-length figure of Faith, holding a chalice, rises over the doorway. The superior termination is a fine antique cross. Square towers, containing robing rooms and stairs leading to the galleries of the edifice, rise to the height of the roof at the angles of the eastern end.

The principal entrance is on the north side, and supports a bust of St. Peter, holding a key, and over a window above is that of the poet's "witty, dirty, Dean."* On entering by this door, the effect of the eastern window, adorned with stained glass, (whose subject is Christ before Pilate,) together with that of the whole interior embellishment, is uncommonly striking. Statues of Faith, Hope, and Charity, and busts of the four Evangelists, are placed beside this window. Twelve clustered pillars, surmounted by capitals covered with foliage, support groined arches springing from grotesque heads to form the roof; the ceiling, richly ornamented with tracery, is painted to resemble stone. The royal

* Swift.

arms in the central pannel of the organ gallery, and on either side those of the Duke of Bedford who began, and of the Duke of Richmond who finished the chapel, are beautifully carved in oak: from these are placed alternately, and in chronological series, the arms of all the viceroys from the time of Henry II. with inscriptions marking the dates of their arrivals and departures.

From a shaft resting upon an open Bible, lying on a clustered, richly foliated, and Gothic base, raised two feet above the floor, ascends the pulpit; whose pannels bear the arms of the Archbishops and Bishops, and four Deans, of the establishment in Ireland; together with those of the four great royal supporters of the reformed religion, Henry VIII. Edward VI. Elizabeth, and William III. More particularly to dwell upon the several beauties of an edifice, calculated from their number and variety to swell our description to an unusual length, might be tedious. But it is a tribute due to Irish talent to observe, that, excepting only the stained glass, which Lord Whitworth purchased on the continent, and the organ, which was made in England, not a portion of the design, sculpture, or general decorations of this tasteful and truly elegant chapel is exotic; a circumstance which, while it reflects the highest honour upon its architect and the ornamental artists, should teach the Irish to be more just to the merit which English liberality has thus enabled them to appreciate, and which their own generous patronage might excite to efforts yet more praise-worthy.

The castle, with its garden, (a small lawn decorated with walks, trees, and shrubs, situated behind the apartments of the Viceroy,) and its other dependencies, occupies a space of ground equal to nine acres, four perches.

Leaving the vice-regal residence by the principal entrance opposite Cork-hill, we pass the west front of the Royal Exchange, a building which communicates a grandeur of approach to the castle, calculated to in-

crease the disappointment excited by the appearance of that mansion itself. The form of this beautiful edifice is nearly a square of 100 feet, having three fronts of Portland stone, in the Corinthian order, crowned by a dome in the centre. The north front is the most perfect: a range of six columns, with their correspondent pilasters and entablature, sustain a noble pediment, highly decorated; at each side, in the same range, are two pilasters. On account of the acclivity of the ground on which the Exchange stands, the entrance is by a large flight of steps, and, before it, is a handsome balustrade supported by rustic work: in this front, between the columns, are three entrances, with elegant iron gates, hung to Ionic pilasters. Immediately over the gates, are three windows between the columns, that assist in lighting the coffee room; on each side of these windows are two others, all richly ornamented by architraves, &c. The lower part, between the pilasters, is embellished by rustic work.

The west front varies but little from the north, except in the want of a pediment: a regular range of Corinthian pilasters, with their entablature, are continued throughout the three fronts, and support an elegant balustrade, which is only interrupted by the pediment in the north front: in the centre of the west side is a projection of the entablature, supported by four columns, between which are three handsome glass doors, with Ionic pilasters like those already described; the ascent to them is by three steps only, as the ground at this side is more level. In the upper floor is a range of windows, embellished like those in the north front. Under the pilasters in the east front, are arched windows that light the Brokers' Offices, and a door that communicates with them, and the subterraneous vaults of the Exchange. The east front is in a narrow passage called Exchange-alley, and ornamented with pilasters only.

“On entering this edifice,” says Mr. Malton, whose

architectural enthusiasm in describing the public buildings of Dublin gives interest to his minutest details, "the attention is immediately called to many conspicuous beauties; but, above all, to the general form. Twelve fluted pillars, of the Composite order, 32 feet high, are circularly disposed in the centre of a square area, covered by a highly-enriched entablature; above which is a beautiful cylindrical lantern, about 10 feet high, perforated by 12 circular windows, ornamented with festoons of laurel leaves; the whole crowned with a handsome spherical dome, divided into hexagonal compartments, enriched and well proportioned; and lighted from the centre by a large circular sky-light. On each side of the 12 columns which support the dome, are impost pilasters of the Ionic order, rising to upwards of half the height of the columns, the same as those which appear on the outside of the building, and covered with a fluted frieze and enriched cornice. The side-walks of the square are covered with a flat ceiling, the height of the impost pilasters, with enriched soffits from the pilasters in the centre to others opposite them against the wall. The columns, pilasters, floor, stair-case, &c. are all of Portland stone, which produces a fine effect. At each extremity of the north side are handsome oval geometrical stone stair-cases, lighted by oval lanterns, in highly enriched coved ceilings; by which is access to the coffee and other rooms, disposed around the cylinder of the dome, over the ambulatory below. In the north front is the coffee-room, which is an excellent apartment, extending from one stair-case to the other, lighted by three windows, between the pillars of the portico, and by two oval lanterns, in a coved ceiling, richly ornamented in stucco on coloured grounds. On the west is a large room for the merchants to deposit samples of their wares, called the Brokers' Office, but used as a sitting-room for the Commissioners of Bankruptcy. To the south are the apartments of the house-keeper. On the

east is the Merchants' Committee-room, with a convenient anti-chamber.

“ Opposite the north entrance, between two of the pillars which support the dome, is an excellent statue of his present Majesty, George III., in a Roman military habit, placed on a white marble pedestal, cast in bronze, by J. Van Nost; it was presented to the merchants of Dublin by the Earl of Northumberland, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to be placed in the Exchange; and cost 700 guineas. In a niche in the wall of the west stair-case, is a fine marble statue of the late Dr. Charles Lucas, holding Magna Charta in his hand, standing on a pedestal, whereon is represented Liberty in bas-relief: it is esteemed an excellent piece of art, executed by Mr. Edward Smyth, a native of Ireland; the expense was defrayed by a number of gentlemen, friends of the deceased patriot.

“ The Exchange was planned and executed under the immediate inspection of the late Mr. Thomas Cooley, architect, from London. * * * * * This was the first introduction of Mr. Cooley to Ireland; where he executed many works of consequence, both in the metropolis and country, which do him great credit; but, of all, the Exchange undeniably claims the pre-eminence. * * * * * Although the Earl of Northumberland was so warm and active to forward the execution, he had not the honour of laying the foundation-stone, which was done, with great ceremony, by his successor, George, Lord Viscount Townshend, on the 2nd of August, 1769, five years after the parliamentary grant of £12,500 for the purchase of the site; and was opened on the 1st of January, 1779. A considerable sum was raised by the merchants, as a fund for the erection, added to, and completed by means of lottery schemes, conducted by them with the utmost integrity.* The gross amount of the whole expenditure was £40,000.”

* “ Mr. Thomas Allen having, in 1763, been appointed by patent

The ingenious writer of this description, who is author of a folio volume of extremely well executed views of the principal buildings in Dublin, has judiciously directed the chief attention of his readers to the interior of this beautiful structure, since in that respect it excels every other in the city, of whose grandeur he raises very elevated ideas. He has, however, omitted to mention, what may justly be deemed a defect in the original plan, the smallness of the edifice in proportion to the purposes for which it was designed: to remedy which, a line of buildings called the Commercial-buildings, but which might not inappropriately have been termed the *new* Exchange, have been erected by private subscription.

The Exchange possesses a great advantage in its situation immediately opposite to one of the principal avenues in the city, called Parliament-street, of which, as well as of Essex Bridge over the Liffey, and a long line of continuation to the end of Capel-street, it commands a fine perspective view. Its appearance, in the approach from Capel-street, is at least equally striking.

Directing our steps along Parliament-street, which is spacious, and one of the greatest trading thoroughfares in the city, we arrive at Essex Quay, and the bridge just mentioned. Here we observe the quays in general finished with parapets, which, for facilitating the landing

to the sinecure place of taster of wines, and endeavouring to enforce a fee of two shillings per ton upon all wines and other liquors imported into this kingdom, the merchants of this city formed an association, entered into a subscription, and appointed a committee, to conduct a legal opposition to the measure: the struggle did not last long, nor cost much; and, turning their thoughts to the best mode of applying the redundant subscription, they unanimously adopted the idea of building a commodious edifice for the meeting of merchants and traders: such seems to have been the origin of building this Exchange, and a situation having been fixed upon, the purchase-money, £13,500, was obtained from parliament by the zeal and activity of Doctor Charles Lucas, then one of the city representatives, whose statue, of course, merits the situation it occupies in this beautiful edifice." *Whitelaw and Walsh, vol. I. p. 523.*

of goods, are omitted below Carlisle Bridge, where the merchant and other vessels lie; but are here added, interrupted only by the conveniences of iron gates, and stone stairs to the water's edge. But these parapets have a rather heavy effect, and their place might have been much better supplied by a light iron railing. The bridge is the noblest in Dublin, being 10 feet wider than Westminster Bridge,* London, of which it is a close, but, from the narrowness of the stream, necessarily a miniature imitation. It has five arches, the whole of hewn stone; and was completed, after the labour of two years, and at the expense of £20,661, in 1755. But this was the period of the rebuilding, not of the original erection of the bridge: the first Essex Bridge having been raised during the vice-royalty of Arthur, Earl of Essex, in 1676; and from that nobleman it derives its name.

Returning through Parliament-street, and again arriving in front of the Exchange, we may notice Dame-street to the eastward, which, from its width, and the splendour of its shops, (inferior only to the best in London,) has an air of considerable importance: but a south-westerly direction through Castle-street to Werburgh-street, conducts us to the only other remarkable object in this parish—its church. This building was originally decorated with the solitary spire which Dublin possessed; but latterly, the timbers upon which it rested having been discovered to be unsound, it was taken down—notwithstanding a liberal offer from Mr. Johnston, an ingenious architect, who, recollecting the method adopted by Sir Christopher Wren to secure the spire of Salisbury Cathedral, would have engaged to support it in the same manner by interior frame-work. As it is, the steeple, which fronts Werburgh-street, deprived of its appropriate termination, as well as of a point of view by the proximity of the opposite houses, appears unworthy of par-

* Westminster Bridge is 44 feet broad, Essex Bridge 54.

ticular attention; though upon more closely observing it, we cannot but perceive the beauty of its three Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite stories.

From the situation of the Castle in St. Werburgh's parish, the Lord Lieutenant has a pew in its church, and, by etiquette, seldom attends charity sermons at other places of worship. During the repairs of the Castle Chapel, this circumstance proved a considerable advantage to the parochial poor, as the Viceroy was then very frequently present, and the donations of numbers who attended from curiosity, proportionably swelled the amount of the contributions. The chief feature of the interior is its size, in comparison with that of other churches in Dublin; it being 80 feet long by 52 wide; and it is characterised by a simplicity both severe and solemn. The galleries are of dark and varnished oak, supported by Doric pilasters; the seats below are of the same gloomy-looking material. The organ over the entrance is the principal ornament, being considered one of the handsomest attached to the parochial churches. The large eastern window over the altar sheds a deadened and "religious light," but the Ionic columns in rear of the communion-table, with alternate compartments of stuccoed drapery and flowers, have an elegant effect.

The date of the erection of the church is 1759, when it was rebuilt in consequence of the destruction of the ancient building by fire five years previously. The latter was also a re-erection, the yet more antique edifice, whose site it occupied, having experienced a like fate in 1301, by a conflagration which involved in ruin a large portion of the then-existing city.

Proceeding from this spot by Little and Great Ship-streets, a part of Stephen-street, and Great George's-street, we pass Castle-market (removed in 1782 from the vicinity of the Castle to its present situation, by the Com-

missioners of Wide Streets,) and enter Dame-street by that part in the parish of St. Andrew.*

This parish is one of the most remarkable in Dublin for fine public buildings, of which we are presented with a remarkable concentration, in the view, as we advance, of College Green. Taking these as they occur, the Commercial-buildings, on the northern side, already slightly mentioned, may be first described. This is a simple but very neat edifice, of mountain granite, consisting of three stories, with a cornice. The only signs of any architectural order in its front, are the Ionic pillars appended to the central door-way: the pediments of the seven windows conspicuous in the middle story, are alternately circular and pointed, and the basement is of rustic work. This building, as previously stated, was erected by subscription, in consequence of the inadequacy of the Royal Exchange to the purposes of the merchants; the smallness of that edifice having rendered it necessary to confine the transaction of business within its walls to an hour on three days of the week, for the purchase of bills on London.

It was first opened in 1799, having been three years in its progress to completion. The coffee-room is 60 feet long, by 28 wide: here the principal English and Irish newspapers are constantly provided. There are also apartments for sleeping as in an hotel, but the accommodations are restricted to this and providing coffee, &c. for the occupants. Here are the Marine Insurance Company's room, the Merchants' private subscription room, the Stock Exchange, &c. Behind, the Commercial and Royal Exchange Insurance Offices, with those where the brokers display their samples, occupy a roomy court.

The commerce of Dublin has materially increased since the Union—one-eighth, it is supposed, at least—and

* The population of St. Werburgh's parish was returned in 1814, at 3052 inhabitants; the number of houses, 246.

this establishment, in consequence, has flourished proportionably. The subscribers have not only paid off the loan of £13,000, obtained to defray a portion of their first expenses, but are now receiving six per cent. interest for the money, amounting to £20,000, which they sunk in the erection.

In a line with the Commercial-buildings, is Daly's Club-house, likewise a neat rather than an elegant building, and constructed of the same description of mountain stone as the former. This once-fashionable club is said to be much on the decline; and, with it, gambling of every description in Dublin—so much so, that even card-tables at private houses are becoming uncommon. The spirit of reformation has extended also to the 'social glass,' which, it has been observed, circulates with infinitely less rapidity than formerly, when hospitality was a term synonymous with hard drinking.

An equestrian statue of William III. in bronze, decorates the centre of College Green. Great solemnity was observed on the opening of this statue to public view, on the anniversary of the battle of the Boyne, July the 1st, 1701. Since when, until very recently, that day and the 4th of November, (the monarch's birth-day) were commemorated by rejoicings round his brazen representative; but as this custom tended greatly to revive the memory of party distinctions, to the honour of the city of Dublin it has been lately much discountenanced. Still, however, the statue is annually decorated with orange-coloured ribbons; and "by an effusion of more loyalty than taste," both it and the marble pedestal on which it stands are daubed with a fresh coat of paint in honour of every succeeding 'glorious first of July.'—These practices are at the expense of the Corporation. The statue itself is very respectably executed, and, from the elevation of its pedestal, has

at a distance a good effect. The latter has the following inscription:

GULIELMO Tertio;
Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ,
Regi,
Ob Religionem Conservatam,
Restitutas Leges,
Libertatem Assertam,
Cives Dublinienses hanc Statuam posuere.

An opening immediately opposite to this statue, on the south side of College Green, conducts us to the parochial church, designated from its form, the Round Church. But, correctly speaking, it is in the shape of an oval or ellipsis, 80 feet long by 60 wide. Its general appearance, derived from this singularity, and the meanness of its architecture, is such, that few, without positive assurances of the fact, would conceive it could possibly be intended for a protestant church. It has a stone vestibule in front, surmounted by a statue of St. Andrew; but the remainder of the exterior is of brick, recently plastered over to give it a resemblance to a more appropriate material: it has neither spire nor steeple in a finished state; though a fine Gothic steeple, *behind* the edifice, was *commenced* in 1793, (when a general repair was found requisite,) but for want of the necessary funds, is not likely to be completed. It was the church originally attached to this parish, which, in its former situation near the castle, had “for divers years been used as a stable for the deputy’s horses,”* until “legally evicted” from the government in 1631, and restored to its rightful possessors: it was rebuilt in 1670, and then first occupied its present site.

Within, all is in complete contrast to the unsightly exterior we have just described; here the oval form, which is a blemish without, is made to contribute to the effect of the light proportions and tasteful elegance of

* Strafford’s Letters, vol. 1. pp. 61 and 81.

the whole arrangement. The gallery, which, unbroken in its corresponding ellipsis but by the organ loft, forms a principal ornament, is distinguished by receding columns, whose appearance is at once graceful and extraordinary: the capitals, decorated with lotus-flowers, and connected with their fluted shafts by work resembling cordage, are in imitation, it is said, of Denon's graphic delineations of ruins in Egypt: a band of cordage also runs beneath the pannels of the entire structure. Certainly the very ingenious architect has offended no eye of taste, by this departure from the established orders; and no reason, we think, can be divined by the warmest admirers of Grecian and Roman architecture, for excluding the styles of that country, from which architecture itself, and every other liberal art, were primarily derived.—The expense of rebuilding this church, in which divine service was resumed in March 1807, was little less than £22,000.

Re-treading the avenue by which we were led from College Green, and following the southern side of the latter, we arrive at the late Post-office, a building more distinguished for the utility of the establishment to which it was attached, than for its own architectural beauty. In consequence of the daily increasing want of room experienced within the contracted limits of this edifice, the foundation-stone of a magnificent new Post-office was laid in Sackville-street, on the 12th of August, 1815, by the then Lord Lieutenant, Lord Whitworth; this we shall notice in the proper place. The estimated expense of the new erection is £60,000.

Directly facing this building is the grand front of the national Bank, to the effect of which, in union with that of the beautiful front of Trinity College, it is impossible for mere description to do justice. No edifice that we recollect in the British metropolis can be compared, for simple elegance, with this: it is perhaps, in this respect, the *chef d'œuvre* of our *imperial* architecture.

It was originally the Parliament-house of Ireland; and, while adapted to its first purpose, was so judiciously described by Mr. Malton, that we cannot do better than transcribe his account of such parts of the building as remain unaltered by the change that has since taken place.

“ The Parliament-house of Ireland is, notwithstanding the several fine pieces of architecture recently raised, the noblest structure Dublin has to boast; and it is no hyperbole to advance, that this edifice in the entire, is the grandest, most convenient, and most extensive of the kind in Europe. The portico is without any of the usual architectural decorations, having neither statue, vase, bass-relief, tablet, sculptured key-stone, or sunk pannel to enrich it; it derives all its beauty from a simple impulse of fine art; and is one of the few instances of form only, expressing true symmetry. It has been with many the subject of consideration, whether it would not have been rendered still more pleasing, had the dado of the pedestal, above the entablature, been perforated, and balusters placed in the openings; but those of the best taste have been decidedly of opinion, it is best as the architect has put it out of his hands. This noble structure is situated on College Green, is placed nearly at right angles with the west front of the college, and the contiguity of two such structures gives a grandeur of scene that would do honour to the first city in Europe.

“ The inside of this admirable building corresponds in every respect with the majesty of its external appearance. * * * * The House of Lords is situated to the right of the Commons’, and is also a noble apartment; the body is 40 feet long by 30 wide, in addition to which, at the upper end, is a circular recess, 13 feet deep, like a large niche, wherein the throne is placed, under a rich canopy of crimson velvet; and at the lower end is the bar, 20 feet square. The room is ornamented at each end, with Corinthian columns, with niches between: the entablature of the order goes round the

room, which is covered with a rich trunk ceiling. On the two long sides of the room are two large pieces of tapestry, now rather decayed; one represents the famous battle of the Boyne, and the other that of Aughrim:* they were executed by a Dutch artist, and are esteemed very fine. Here again, the house assembled, from below the bar a high scene of picturesque grandeur is presented; and the Viceroy on the throne, appears with more splendour than his Majesty himself on the throne of England.

“ The parliament-house was begun to be built, during the administration of John Lord Carteret, in the year 1729, in the reign of George II., and was partly executed under the inspection of Sir Edward Lovet Pearce, engineer and surveyor-general; but completed by Arthur Dobbs, esq. who succeeded him in that office, about the year 1739; the expense amounting to near £40,000.”

The Commons'-house, the description of which we have omitted in the foregoing account, appears also to have been “ truly deserving of admiration;” but, in the new arrangement of the interior, at the period of the conversion of the edifice into a bank, this beautiful room was demolished, together with the Court of Requests, and on the site of the latter the present Cash-office was erected; an office which has been pronounced to form “ one of the finest rooms in the empire.”

The House of Lords remains nearly as described by Mr. Malton, but is now called the Court of Proprietors; it has received a recent addition to its embellishments in a very fine statue of George III. in his parliamentary robes, and decorated with the Orders of the Bath, and of St. Patrick. £2000 were paid for this statue, which is of the finest white marble, to the artist, the younger Bacon; and, such is the beauty of its execution, we

* Here is a slight mistake: the last mentioned piece of tapestry is a representation, not of the Battle of Aughrim, but the Defence of Londonderry.

cannot deem him overpaid. The pedestal is ornamented with sub-figures of Religion and Justice, and bears the simple inscription—

GEORGIUS III.

REX.

A beautiful Corinthian portico forms the entrance on the eastern side, and was that used by the Lords when they went to the House, having been erected at their order. This, though evidently an architectural incongruity, the columns of the principal front being Ionic, has a very fine effect from College-street, which faces it; and, certainly, the defect is not of consequence to justify the idea of taking it down, and rebuilding it in the Ionic order—a measure which has been contemplated.

“The western entrance is under a portico of four Ionic columns, and is attached to the old portico by a circular wall, as on the opposite side, but with the addition of a circular colonnade, of the same order and magnitude as the columns of the portico, 12 feet distance from the wall. This colonnade, being of considerable extent, gives an appearance of extreme grandeur to the building, but robs it of particular distinguishing beauties, which the plainer screen wall to the east gives to the porticoes.” Thus it appears, as Mr. Walsh notices, “that when this edifice became the property of the governors, the east and west ends were dissimilarly connected with the centre, a circumstance which must have produced a want of uniformity in the front, unpleasing to the eye of the spectator: this defect has been happily removed, and the connection is now effected by circular screen walls, ornamented with Ionic columns supporting an entablature similar to that of the portico, and between which are niches for statues, the whole producing a very fine effect.”

The length of the grand portico fronting College Green is 147 feet, and the building altogether occupies an acre and a half of ground. Its flat roof is capable of receiving

an entire regiment of soldiers. It is constructed throughout of Portland stone; and the sum paid for its possession to government, in the year 1802, by the Governors of the Bank of Ireland, was £40,000, subject to a ground rent, in addition, of £240 per annum.

Trinity College terminates the eastern view from College Green, and completes the range of architectural embellishment, by which it is rendered the noblest area in Dublin. The college, like the bank, is built of Portland stone, and presents a grand front of the Corinthian order to the spectator, in length 300 feet. Corinthian columns, surmounted by an elegant pediment, ornament the vestibule in the centre; four ranges of windows extend along the front; and the north and south projecting wings, or pavilions, which have an upper story, terminating in a balustrade, have each four Corinthian pilasters, with other appropriate decorations.

The vestibule, which is of an octagonal form, and terminated with groined arches, over which is the Museum, conducts to the principal quadrangle (of which there are now but two, though formerly they were four in number) called Parliament-square. This is in length 328 feet, by 210 wide, and contains the theatre, the chapel, refectory, apartments for students, &c. all of hewn stone. It takes its name from the circumstance of its having been re-edified by various grants from parliament, amounting in the whole to more than £40,000.

The theatre is in a style corresponding with that of the grand entrance; the interior is of stucco-work. Besides whole-length portraits, attached to compartments between Composite pilasters, of the royal foundress, Elizabeth, and of seven celebrated personages* educated in the college; an elegant memorial to Doctor Richard Baldwin, who died Provost in 1758, has been here erected. "A large sarcophagus of black and gold marble

* Primate Usher, Abp. King, Bp. Berkeley, Wm. Molyneux. esq. Dean Swift, Dr. Baldwin, and the Rt. Hon. John Forster.

supports a white marble mattress, on which the Provost is represented in a recumbent posture, larger than life, with a scroll representing his will, by which he left his fortune, amounting to £80,000, to the university, in the left hand, on the elbow of which arm he supports himself, and his right hand extended open. Over him leans a female figure, in a mourning attitude, emblematic of the university, up to whose face, expressive of the deepest woe, he looks with a countenance of resigned complacency; whilst at his feet there stands a fine figure of an angel, holding a wreath of palm in its left hand, that casts on him a look of ineffable benignity, and points up to heaven as his destination and reward. Behind these figures rises a magnificent pyramid, of variegated Egyptian porphyry. The sculpture of the figures is excellent, the contours chaste, the draperies light and graceful, the attitudes well conceived, and the expression throughout strong, yet correct: and the whole is a performance that does the highest honour to the abilities of Mr. Hewetson, a native of Ireland, settled at Rome, who executed it for the college, at the expense of £2000."

The chapel, facing the theatre, presents a front entirely in unison with it, and the embellishments within are no ways inferior. The refectory is a detached Ionic building, of equal merit, containing, besides the dining-hall and anti-room, the apartments of the Historical Society.

The library square is inferior both in appearance and dimensions to the other quadrangle. Yet the library itself is a noble building, though from the perishable nature of the stone employed in its erection, it appears fast approaching to decay. The room where the books are deposited, is of very large proportions, being 210 feet by 41, and 40 feet high: the shelves, which are elegantly and commodiously arranged, and the gallery, are of Irish oak, varnished. Twenty-one busts, in white

marble, adorn the latter: the volumes are in number 50,000; besides which a collection of 27,000 volumes, known by the name of the Fagel Library,* has a room expressly appropriated to it.

The library is open for four hours each day, from 8 to 10 in the morning, and from 12 to 2 in the afternoon; students who choose it, however, may be *locked in* for the intermediate hours, in the absence of the librarian. The manuscript-room (over the Fagel collection) contains many curious Irish MSS. and Dr. Barret, the present vice-provost, discovered there a very antique Greek manuscript of St. Matthew's Gospel, of which he has published a *fac-simile*. An attempt had been made to obliterate the characters, and over them others had been subsequently written; but the original Greek was still faintly discernible, and wherever it was totally effaced, he has supplied the blanks in his printed copy by points. Here are also a large MS. map of China, by a native Chinese, and in the characters of that country; the four gospels, with a continued Greek commentary, written in the ninth century; the famous Montfortian MS., &c. The collection of apparatus for lectures on natural philosophy is very valuable, and was in great part a donation from that active promoter of science the late Primate Robinson.

The remaining three sides of the library quadrangle, not occupied by that building, consist of buildings appropriated as lodgings for the students.

* A grant from the governors of Erasmus Smith's schools, enabled the university to purchase this very valuable library at the expense of £8,000 English, after declining it in the first instance from the temporary inadequacy of their funds. It had belonged to Mr. Fagel, of Amsterdam, who conveyed it to London previously to the entry of the French into the former city in 1794. Bonaparte, then First Consul, had employed an emissary to purchase the best of the books for the national library at Paris, but as the university treated for the whole collection, their offer was of course preferred. Both the Oxford and Cambridge universities, to whom proposals had been made on its first arrival in London, refused to become purchasers on account of the largeness of the sum demanded.

The museum is a fine room, and is the depository of many curious articles, with a good collection of minerals. One of the most interesting objects contained in it, is the celebrated harp of Brian Boromhe, which, notwithstanding the opinion of Dr. Ledwich to the contrary, we venture to conceive to be a genuine specimen of the ancient Irish harp. The anatomy-house contains the well-known wax models of the human figure, executed by M. de Roue, at Paris, and purchased by the Earl of Shelburne, who presented them to the college in 1752.

South of the library, the fellows of the college have a good garden, into which the fellow-commoners and masters are alone admitted: the park, containing upwards of 13 English acres, with a bowling-green, is allotted for the purposes of recreation to the inferior students. The printing-office, with its Doric portico, and a building containing the anatomical lecture-room and the laboratory, are in this extensive area. The new north wing is a recent addition to the college, intended solely as additional apartments for the students. It is exceedingly bald of architectural decoration, and is technically called by the collegians 'Botany Bay.'

Trinity College is a university in itself, and is invested with all the privileges and powers, usually attached to those learned institutions. Queen Elizabeth's letters-patent for its foundation, however, expressly state it as intended "to be the mother of a university in a certain place called All-Hallows,* near Dublin;" and "by the act of settlement, the chief governor or governors of Ireland, by consent of the privy council, were empowered to erect another college, to be of the university of

* The college stands on the site of an Augustinian monastery, dissolved by Henry VIII. and by him granted to the Mayor and citizens of Dublin, who readily yielded it, with the lands attached, for the purpose of this erection, at the pathetic appeal of Abp. Loftus, the most active promoter of the work.

Dublin, to be called King's College, and out of the lands vested, or to be vested in the King by that act, to raise a yearly allowance not exceeding £2000, by an equal charge upon every thousand acres, and therewith to endow the said college, which was to be governed by such laws and constitutions as the King, his heirs or successors, should, under the great seal of England, or Ireland, appoint. But this power has not yet been carried into execution.”*

The college is liberally endowed, its estates, chiefly situated in the counties of Kerry and Donegal, and originally consisting of forfeitures to the crown, producing upwards of £15,000 per annum. The students are of three classes, distinguished by the names of fellow-commoners, pensioners, and sizars. The fellow-commoners are the sons of noblemen, or private wealthy individuals, and wear a peculiar gown and cap; they have also the privilege of dining at the fellows' table, but for which they pay accordingly; whilst pensioners, at a less expense, possess all the real advantages which the college affords; and, if they conduct themselves with propriety, receive every attention from their superiors. The sizars, 30 in number, receive their commons and instruction *gratis*: as vacancies occur, they are selected after examination from a number of competitors: though their situation may appear degrading, yet, by good conduct, they may remove every impression that might be painful, and, in a very short time, by continued diligence, may raise themselves to a higher rank. Some of this class have even risen to the highest honours in the university.

The corporation consists of a provost, seven senior and 18 junior fellows, and 70 scholars. The senior fellow is vice-provost. The income of the provost is upwards of £2600, that of a senior fellow generally about £1000, and that of a junior fellow from £500

* Mr. Walsh.

to £800 per annum. The scholars have the right of voting at the election of the member returned by the college to parliament, with some other privileges and emoluments. The number of students of every denomination is at present upwards of 1300.

Considering the length of time that has elapsed since the foundation of this university, and the system of education, admirable upon the whole, pursued in it, it may be thought singular that the number of illustrious characters it has produced, should be comparatively small. But amongst these, it must be remembered, are the names, dear to literature and patriotism, of Swift, Congreve, Goldsmith, Usher, Berkley, and Burke.

Contiguous to the college, on the eastern side of Grafton-street, is the Provost's house, built of free-stone, upon an elegant design, and, next to Leinster House, which we shall presently describe, the noblest private residence in Dublin. The interior is very judiciously disposed, and the offices, which have the appearance of wings, are neat and commodious. It is connected by a covered gallery, with the Parliament-square.

The Royal Irish Academy House, on the western side of Grafton-street, (a street which has a considerable trading appearance,) is nearly opposite the Provost's house. There is nothing striking in the exterior of this building, but within it is roomy and convenient. The society was incorporated in the year 1786; its object is the promotion of polite literature, science, and antiquities; and much curious and valuable information, on subjects of general interest to the country, is consolidated and preserved in its periodical volumes of Transactions, of which a-twelfth has appeared. It possesses a library; and the large room in which the academy meet, is ornamented with very correct portraits of Lord Charlemont (the founder,) and the celebrated Irish chemist, Mr. Kirwan.

The only other remarkable building in this parish, is

the Theatre-Royal, Crow-street, the principal approach to which is from Dame-street. It is a rude and gloomy-looking edifice, externally, but conveniently fitted up, and handsomely decorated, within. It will hold 2000 persons. The silence and decorum preserved during the performances at this theatre, are worthy of notice and commendation. The 'gods' in the gallery, as at Drury-lane, and Covent-garden, are generally the first to applaud and condemn; but, as the citizens say, owing to a nice and discriminative sense of fitness and propriety, unknown amongst that part of an audience in London, their approbation or censure is seldom indeed misplaced. A Dublin audience, it is there affirmed, constitutes a sort of superior ordeal, which, if an actor can but pass, his pretensions may be considered as founded on a just basis, and his past reputation permanent.

The total population of St. Andrew's parish, in 1814, was 7074; the number of houses, 703.

Re-passing the grand front of Trinity College from Grafton-street, and proceeding by the eastern portico of the bank, we approach Aston Quay by Westmoreland-street, thus entering the parish of St. Mark. Immediately before us is Carlisle Bridge, an elegant structure of three arches, the building of which was commenced in 1791: its breadth is 48, its length 210 feet. Continuing our route eastward by the river-side, we arrive at Burgh Quay, where is the house of the Dublin Library Society, an institution supported by annual subscriptions, containing libraries of reference and circulation, and an apartment devoted to newspapers, periodical publications, and conversation. Nearly opposite the Custom-house, which looks majestically towards us from the northern bank, is the Corn Exchange. A main object of the merchants in erecting this building is said to have been to evade the toll claimed by the Corporation upon all corn coming into Dublin, but which, sold by samples here, is considered exempt from their

cognizance. However this may have been, the structure is not such as to do much honour to the taste of those who planned it. In extent and elevation it is conspicuous, but if intended as an imitation of the Commercial-buildings, which it appears to be, it is decidedly inferior to its neat original. An internal peculiarity, worth notice, is the material of the hollow Tuscan pillars, 14 in number, which decorate the hall: they are of *metal*, and were cast and carried entire from Colebrook-dale, to the site they now occupy on the margin of the Liffey.

At the extremity nearly of Sir John Rogerson's Quay, (though separated from it by an enclosure with an iron gate,) and just previous to our approach to the South Wall, is the Hibernian Marine School; a simply constructed stone edifice, but wanting not that degree of elegance always to be obtained by a due regard to proportion. It consists of a centre, 72 feet by 46, and wings, receding its whole depth, each 30 feet by 60. The Marine Society was incorporated in 1755 by a charter, in which is stated that the purpose of its institution was the "maintaining, educating, and apprenticing the orphans and children of decayed seamen in the royal navy, and merchants' service." Boys here acquire reading, writing, arithmetic, and the theory of navigation; and, after they are completed in this course, are apprenticed to masters of merchant-vessels, or embarked in king's-ships, as opportunities may offer. The value of such an institution is apparent, and we rejoice to hear that it has been eminently attended with the usefulness anticipated in its formation.

Through some as yet unfinished streets, we reach Thownsend-street, in which are two edifices devoted to charitable purposes; the General Asylum for Female Penitents, which originated in the exertions of a poor Roman-catholic weaver, who first reclaimed by persuasion a single individual, and then gradually procured the

notice and support of the opulent around him : and the Lock Hospital, an extensive but plain stone building of the Doric order, exclusively devoted to the cure of a disgusting disease. Both these institutions are examples of that spirit of genuine philanthropy, which appears in so many of the recent charitable erections of Dublin.

By Mark-street we approach the parochial church, situated at its southern end, and distinguished by no architectural embellishment, but disgraced with the remnant of a steeple : the interior is roomy and commodious. In the same street is the United Hospital of St. Mark and St. Anne, of utility now only as a dispensary, the funds being at so low an ebb as to be inadequate to the support of any internal patient. It was originally maintained by subscriptions, which of course must have latterly declined.

The number of inhabitants in this parish, in 1814, was 11,066 ; the houses, 720.

Directing our steps through Moss-lane, and turning the angle of the Vice-provost's garden, we enter Harcourt Place, whose northern side, with that of Leinster-street, constitute a part of St. Mark's parish-boundary ; from whence crossing to Kildare-street, we find ourselves in the parish of St. Anne, inferior in population to that just quitted, (the number of inhabitants in 1814 being 8324,) but surpassing it in that of the houses, (in number 764 at the same period,) as well as in the general wealth and splendour of their occupants.*

In Kildare-street, opposite the end of Molesworth-

* The reader may conceive it singular, that in a parish where there are *more* houses, the number of inhabitants should be *less* by nearly 3000 souls than in another where there are *fewer* ; but he will recollect that it is the poorer parts of Dublin which universally are the most populous, on account of the habit prevalent among the lower classes of crowding numbers together in the same habitation, and even in the same room.—See our general remarks in Excursion I. A similar disparity (though in a less degree) will be observed on comparing the relative totals of population and houses in some parishes in London, and indeed in most cities.

street, stands the Dublin Society House, late the princely mansion of the Duke of Leinster. The society, whose original station was in Grafton-street, and who afterwards expended £60,000 upon an erection in Hawkins-street, purchased Leinster House in 1815, and, besides the purchase-money, which was not of inconsiderable amount, laid out very large sums in adapting it to their purposes. But, after all, it may be questioned, whether a palace is an appropriate residence for a scientific body; and, though that should be granted, the policy of removing from a noble and extensive mansion, fitted up under their own inspection, and with a view to their exclusive objects, to one which, however surpassing it in grandeur, no expense can render so convenient, is certainly doubtful.

The principal front of this building faces Kildare-street, but is separated from it by a spacious court, the entrance to which is by a rusticated gateway. The back-front looks into Merrion-square, but is separated from it also by a lawn, terminated by a low wall, which appears purposely contrived not to lessen the effect of the edifice as seen from the square. The order of the grand front is Corinthian, supported by Doric colonnades at each angle. In the hall is a fine cast of the Apollo Belvidere, and others. The apartments serve the purposes of a library, museum, lecture-room, laboratory, &c.

“ In the library are about 10,000 volumes on the fine arts, architecture, Irish history, natural history, agriculture, and botany: on this latter subject every rare and valuable work is to be found, and the botanical collection of books exceeds perhaps any other in Europe. Besides these there are copious collections of the transactions of other learned societies. The MSS. which may be consulted, are contained in 17 volumes folio, which are in good preservation. They were entirely collected by Walter Harris, and principally in his own hand-writing; their authenticity therefore depends on the

credit due to himself. The first volume of the second series, however, is a collection of Archbishop King's, and considered original; it is chiefly '*de hospitalibus cœnobiis et monasteriis Hibernicis.*' The whole were purchased by parliament from Harris's widow for £500, and presented to the Dublin Society."*

The museum contains the finest collection of minerals perhaps in the world. They were originally a part of the Leskean Museum, and, together with the animal collection of the celebrated German professor, from whom the whole obtained its name, became the property of the society by purchase on his decease. The arrangement of the minerals is according to the system of Werner, whose pupil Mr. Leske was. Among them is a piece of the Wicklow gold, from the discovery of a vein of which, such great hopes were excited a few years back; a genuine meteoric stone which fell in Tipperary county; specimens of basaltes from the Giant's Causeway, &c.

The animal collection is inferior, but well worth the examination of the *minute* naturalist, being rich in the departments of shells and insects.

The models are extremely curious: that of Stonehenge, Wiltshire, in its present state, and in its supposed state of perfection, with that of the Bridge of Schaffhausen, Switzerland, and another of an ancient amphitheatre, or similar edifice, in Kerry, which we shall have occasion to mention in our description of that county, are among the most remarkable.

Casts of the Elgin marbles, of the Laocoon, of the Venus de Medicis, and other celebrated statues, with a Faunus in statuary marble, and busts of the Earl of Chesterfield, Dr. Madden, William Maple, and Thomas Prior, esqrs., (with the latter of whom the institution may be said to have originated,) are also possessed by the society.

Fifty guineas are now paid for the honour of enrol-

* Whitelaw and Walsh, vol. II. p. 959.

ment among the members; but this payment is for life, the annual subscriptions by which the society was at first supported having been discontinued. In furtherance of the useful views of the society, government added a stipend of £10,000 per annum. The members are in number about 500.

The Dublin Society has departed from the objects it at first professed, still more than from its original constitution. The association in the first instance was for the purpose of improving the agriculture of the country; in 1749, George II. incorporated it by the title of "The Dublin Society for promoting Husbandry and other useful Arts in Ireland;" but latterly, the arts principally (and of those many of the polite ones) together with the sciences of botany, chemistry, mineralogy, &c., have occupied their attention, and nearly usurped the place of neglected agriculture. Whether the utility of the society is materially increased by the change, it is not for us to say; certain it is, that its first labours were highly commendable, and productive of solid advantages to the country; and the fact that "many millions of trees have been planted, many large and extensive nurseries formed in divers parts of the kingdom, under its premiums," alone speaks volumes in its praise. Under such auspices, Ireland might in time regain its appellation of the *woody island*, and, politically speaking, the empire would not lose by the substitution of sylvan produce in the place of a portion of the redundant population, whose precious and unnatural increase has a direct tendency to prevent a very general extension of its growth.

The agricultural surveys of the Irish counties, of which 23 have been published, were set on foot by the Dublin Society, and have various degrees of merit: the survey of Kilkenny by Mr. Tighe, that of Cork by the Rev. H. Townsend, and that of Londonderry by the Rev. G. V. Sampson, are among the best.

The Botanic Garden at Glasnevin, (a village in the

environs of Dublin,) which is the property of the society, will be described in a future Excursion.

The ‘Society for promoting the Education of the Poor in Ireland,’ have commenced an establishment in Kildare-street, near its southern termination at St. Stephen’s Green, whose object is “to diffuse throughout the country a well-ordered system of education, which shall combine economy of time and money, and bestow a due attention on cleanliness and discipline; and the leading principle by which it shall be guided is, *to afford the same facilities to all classes of professing christians, without any attempt to interfere with the peculiar religious opinions of any.*”^{*} The liberal principle forming the distinctive feature of this society, needs not from us a comment. We trust that its means will be found as enlarged as its public spirit, and its success commensurate with both. Parliament has wisely appropriated £6000 to the fulfilment of its designs. The buildings begun in Kildare-street, consist of a school-room, to contain 1200 children, a printing-office, and a depository for the sale of such books as the society shall publish for the use of their schools, which, in time, it is anticipated, will extend all over Ireland.

At the corner of Kildare-street, fronting St. Stephen’s Green, is Shelburne House, a venerable fabric, converted during a period of disturbance into a barrack for cavalry; but its military occupation has been discontinued.

Arrived now within the largest square in Europe, although its north side is only included in the parish we are perambulating, we are naturally tempted to commence its particular survey. St. Stephen’s Green is nearly an English mile in circumference; but, as is observed by Sir R. C. Hoare, “it is not sufficient that a street is wide, or that a square encloses a spacious area; a certain regularity and grandeur in the surrounding

^{*} Resolutions of the society at their first meeting at the Rotunda, Dublin, Dec. 2nd, 1811.

houses is absolutely necessary to render them striking: the good effects of *symmetry* are visible in many of the new squares in London, and still more so at Bath." Now it is in these qualities of grandeur, regularity, and symmetry, in the surrounding buildings, that St. Stephen's Green is particularly wanting: and the consequence is precisely such as the observation of the judicious Baronet would lead us to suspect. We cannot, however, continue his description: "A broad gravel walk, separated from the street by a low wall, and from the green by a dirty and stinking ditch, encircles the whole area, which is shaded by trees;" since, the low wall and ditch have both disappeared, and a light iron palisade now encircles the whole interior area: so that, this and other striking improvements being recently made, Sir Richard might not now express his surprise "that the spirit of taste and improvement so highly conspicuous in many parts of Dublin, should not have been extended to this fine green—a spot so well calculated for public walks, and even in its present uncouth state, and with all its *desagrémens*, so much resorted to by the public."

On the right of Dawson-street, by which we will retreat from this immense 'surface of a meadow,' as it is called by the writer we have just quoted, the first conspicuous building is the Mayoralty House, an edifice extremely bald of external decoration, and distinguished only as the residence of the chief magistrate. In the garden attached, is an equestrian statue of George I., removed from Essex Bridge, on the rebuilding of that structure, to its present site, in 1798: it is unworthy of particular remark. Contiguous to the Mansion House is the parish church, presenting, notwithstanding its Doric pilasters, an unsightly and unfinished appearance: and it is not recommended by any striking interior embellishment. In the same street is the Hibernian Hotel, which having adopted for our abode while we remained in this city, we can recommend to the tourist as affording,

equally with numerous others, every desirable accommodation.

Crossing Grafton and Clarendon-treets, by Duke-street, Johnson's-court, and Coppinger-row, we proceed to the Stamp-office, formerly Powerscourt House, in William-street. The narrowness of the avenue in which this mansion is situated, and the coat of universal black (arising from the smoke of the surrounding habitations) with which its front is disfigured, prevent the spectator from immediately perceiving that the architecture is of no common elegance. Lord Powerscourt erected the edifice for his town residence, and afterwards sold it to government for £15,000. "He raised the stone from the mountains on his estate, and engaged Mr. Mack, a stone-cutter, to display all his skill in its erection. It is approached by a flight of steps, formerly leading to a portico supported on four Doric pillars, which is now removed. The first story is enriched with rustic arched windows, and an entablature of the Doric order continued throughout the front to two gateways, surmounted by pediments, which stand as wings to the building. In the centre of the second story is a Venetian window of the Ionic order; the other windows are ornamented with their proper architraves and pediments. Above is a cornice with a central pediment, in the tympanum of which is a coronet. But what peculiarly marks the edifice is a quadrangular building elevated above the whole, erected for the purpose of an observatory, and commanding an extensive view of the bay of Dublin and the surrounding country."* A Stamp-office was first introduced into Ireland in 1774, and the business of this department of the revenue, originally transacted in Eustace-street, was removed to the present more eligible situation in May, 1811.

Nothing else of interest occurring within the limits of St. Anne's parish, we here concluded our second Excursion, and returned to the Hibernian Hotel.

* Mr. Walsh.

EXCURSION III.

Through the Parish of St. Peter, the Deanery of St. Patrick, the Parishes of St. Bride and St. Nicholas Within, and the Deanery of Christ Church.

LEAVING Dawson-street for St. Stephen's Green, (already described,) and tracing its northern side with that of Merrion-row, we enter, by Baggot-street, the extensive, populous, and wealthy parish of St. Peter. Baggot-street is distinguished only for its humble and unpretending, but highly useful, "House of Refuge for Female Servants out of Place," where young women 'suddenly deprived of their usual means of support, and incapable of adopting any other,' provided they can bring 'unquestionable testimonies of their modesty, honesty, and sobriety,' are permitted to reside, until other services can be procured for them; 'and in the meantime are employed in washing and plain work, &c., receiving a small daily allowance to assist any deficiency in their earnings.' Another of these Houses of Refuge exists in Dublin; and those who consider the temptations to which unprotected females are exposed, upon becoming such 'temporary outcasts,' and the humane advantages afforded them by these establishments, can scarcely too highly appreciate them.

The modern-built Fitzwilliam-street conducts us hence to Merrion-square, the handsomest in Dublin, but indebted for a considerable portion of its fine effect to the vicinity of the Dublin-Society House, and the lawn in rear of that princely dwelling. The low wall attached to the

latter occupies nearly the whole extent of the square on its western side; the other three sides are adorned with lofty, well-built houses, not precisely uniform in their appearance, nor yet disagreeably contrasted. The northern foot-way is, on summer evenings, the fashionable lounge for all the gay and wealthy inhabitants of the neighbourhood. This square, though in extent some acres less than St. Stephen's Green, infinitely surpasses it in elegance, and is a principal ornament to the south-eastern quarter of the city.

From Merrion-square our walk lies through Holles-street to the Artichoke Road, near the eastern extremity of which, and at the verge of St. Peter's parish, is Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, frequently called the Clinical Hospital from the lectures given there; the design of its institution being to afford instruction to pupils, connected with the various cases which come under their inspection, as well as to grant medical relief to the sick. There are six professors, (appointed by the act of 1800, in virtue of which the building was erected,) one of whom, twice in every week, remarks at large upon the cases of the patients, and explains to the students the principles of his method of cure. The hospital is a neat substantial edifice, consisting of a centre and two projecting wings, raised by a fund provided out of estates bequeathed by Sir Patrick for the establishment of professorships in the college of physicians: for, the executors having failed to perform his intentions, the trust was, by a decree of the Court of Chancery, awarded to the college, who, besides paying the professors' salaries, were enabled, by the increasing value of the estates, to found this extensive building. A good collection of books, likewise bequeathed by Sir Patrick, is attached to the institution.

Contiguous to this spot are the Grand Canal Docks, which, though properly in the environs of Dublin, we may not meet with a fitter opportunity to describe. These docks constitute a large artificial basin, capable

of receiving 600 vessels, which may enter it without obstructing the channel of the Liffey, with the mouth of which river it forms a junction by means of locks. This basin is in fact a large harbour, covering an extent of ground equal to 25 English acres, surrounded by noble wharfs, which are intended to be encircled by warehouses. Its entire length is 3300 feet, from its entrance by the Liffey to the commencement of the cut by which it communicates with the Grand Canal; its greatest width 360: it is not carried in a right line from the mouth of the river, but forms a direct angle, stretching to the southward, before it has quite completed half its length. Over the latter branch is a draw-bridge; and graving docks, three in number, for vessels of various sizes, are attached to the former. The cut of communication, after making a semicircular sweep of three miles round the entire southern district of the city, enters the Grand Canal at a short distance from its southwestern extremity, and is crossed by numerous bridges, one of which, called Magnay Bridge, and leading to the Artichoke Road, is in the vicinity of the Clinical Hospital.

Following the line of this cut by its northern bank, about 6 or 700 yards, an unfinished street will conduct us back to Fitzwilliam-street, and, on crossing it, to the square of the same name, possessing little to recommend it beyond its air of cheerful neatness. By another unfinished street, diverging from the south-western angle of this square, we reach Leeson-street, where is the Magdalene Asylum, the principal among the five establishments of its kind to be found in Dublin, and that first instituted, chiefly by the exertions of Lady Arabella Denny. A neat chapel is appended to the asylum, where contributions are every Sunday received from the numerous and fashionable congregations who constantly attend the service; and the amount of these donations is, we believe, the main support of the institution,

Westward of Leeson-street are the "Coburg Gardens," the entrance to which, in Harcourt-street, we arrive at by treading the walk skirted by the trees which form their southern boundary. These gardens, 12 acres in extent, were formerly the grounds of Lord Clonmel, but were opened to the public in May, 1817, under the above appellation, with a grand display of illuminations, fireworks, &c., in imitation of the London Vauxhall, but with a degree of success, we understand, far from equal to the sanguine expectations of the new proprietors. In fact, amusements of this kind appear incongenial with the domestic turn of the Irishman's ideas of social happiness; society is his delight, but society with him is divested of its most endearing charm, unless enjoyed at his own home, or that of some one among the number of his visiting acquaintances.

From Harcourt-street we have once more a prospect of St. Stephen's Green; and proceeding by its western side as far as the corner of York-street, the Royal College of Surgeons, situated at this spot, arrests the attention. It is an elegant Doric structure, of Portland stone and native granite, erected at an expense of £40,000. The interior consists of a theatre, two museums, dissecting rooms, and other apartments, the whole extremely well adapted to the objects of the establishment; and the arrangements and conduct of the institution are such, as to afford advantages to pupils, not to be surpassed perhaps by those of any other of its kind.

By York-street we are conducted to Aungier-street, where is the parochial church, entirely wanting in external decoration, though respectable and convenient within. In the same street is the Incorporated Society House, the objects of which institution demand particular remark. The charter granted by George the Second expresses its "intent" to be "that the children of the popish, and other poor natives of the said kingdom (Ireland) may be instructed in the English tongue, and

the principles of true religion and loyalty;" the preamble having stated "that in many parts of the said kingdom, there are great tracts of land almost entirely inhabited by papists, who are kept by their clergy in great ignorance of the true religion, and bred up in great disaffection to the government;" and farther, "that the erecting of English protestant schools in those places was *absolutely necessary for their conversion.*" The conversion of the children of popish parents to protestantism, being then the avowed object of these schools, the effects of their institution have been found, after the experience nearly of a century, to be precisely such as a liberal and enlightened spirit would from the first have predicted, as the natural consequences of a scheme fraught with such views, and directed by such means to their accomplishment. Wherever the charter schools have reared their intolerant heads, they have uniformly been regarded by the majority of the papists in their vicinity, as decoys to their children from the allegiance due to themselves, as well as from the revered faith of their ancestors; nothing can induce these poor people to believe that any other than political views were entertained in their erection; and the advantages to be derived from a system which combines the maintenance, clothing, and educating of their offspring, are overlooked or disregarded, while the bigotted and party designs of the founders are enlarged upon and exaggerated. Even should that sensibility to the benefits of instruction, so prevalent in Ireland, induce them to consent to this estrangement of the interests, habits, and ideas of the children from their own, every precaution is generally used by them, at every opportunity, to instil into their minds their own religious and political prejudices, and to fix in them an aversion to the establishments in which they are reared, and to the language by means of which they are instructed: so that instances daily occur of the youths' relapsing, on their

return to their families, into the errors of their native creed, and forgetting the dialect they were taught to *read*, in the use of that they are subsequently accustomed to hear *spoken*. It is but justice to the Incorporated Society, however, to observe, that much has been done of late years towards ameliorating the system of their schools, and that some glaring defects in their original constitution have been either softened down or otherwise obviated; but while the design of their institution has thus been rendered less palpable and obtrusive, a considerable period must elapse, it is to be feared, before the poor catholic population will view it with feelings less repugnant. The present number of schools dispersed throughout the country is 37, and that of the children educated in them rather less than 3000, of whom the proportion of Roman-catholics to protestants is about eight to one.

In perambulating this parish, we have not gone out of our way to notice the little village-like church of St. Kevin, in Upper Kevin-street, united to St. Peter's, as it possesses nothing to interest the tourist; nor the County Infirmary, or New Meath Hospital, in Long-lane, as the latter building is as yet unfinished, though it promises to be of great magnitude, and corresponding utility.—The population of St. Peter's parish, in 1814, amounted to 13,478 souls, the houses were in number 1264.

Quitting Aungier-street, by its southern extremity, and proceeding westward through Bishop-street, our first subject of enquiry in the Deanery of St. Patrick is the episcopal palace, converted within the last 25 years into a barrack for infantry; and though the practice of quartering soldiers there has been recently discontinued, a part of the building is still appropriated to the accommodation of the police patrol. Thus the Archbishop of Dublin has no residence in that city; but his Grace has not much reason to regret the loss of this

palace, as of late years it could not have formed a very dignified archiepiscopal abode; and, in answering the purposes to which it is now assigned, it has been found eminently useful. The Deanery House, also in Kevin-street, is a plain unornamented brick building, fronted by a spacious enclosed court-yard.

From this street Patrick-street runs nearly due north; and on the eastern side of the latter is the venerable Cathedral. Of this, and the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, usually called Christ Church, Sir Richard Hoare observes, that though remarkable for their antiquity, they are so "only on that account;" to which he justly adds, that "their state is very bad and precarious, and the approach to each of them filthy beyond measure, and through the very worst parts of the city." St. Patrick's Cathedral, we are farther informed by this gentleman, "is said to have been built by John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, on the site of an older building, and dedicated by him in the year 1190 to St. Patrick. Henry Loundres afterwards changed its ecclesiastical establishment, which was collegiate in its first constitution, and erected it into a cathedral about the year 1225, uniting it with the Priory of the Holy Trinity, or Christ Church, and reserving to the latter the prerogative of honour. The chapel of the Blessed Virgin is said to have been built by Fulk de Saundford, who in 1271 was buried in it; the steeple was erected by Archbishop Minot in 1370, who also rebuilt a part of the cathedral which had been destroyed by fire; and the lofty spire owes its existence to a legacy bequeathed by Doctor Sterne, Bishop of Clogher, in 1750." This spire, we are informed by a female traveller, "looks like a vast extinguisher!"*—an opinion, upon the propriety of which we shall not venture a comment, but merely refer the reader to our own view of the cathedral, which will enable him to judge for himself. Taken all together,

* Narrative of a Residence in Ireland.

notwithstanding, we must consider the venerable St. Patrick's an interesting pile, although its site, it must be confessed, is particularly injudicious, being the lowest ground in Dublin; and the heavy dead wall and disgusting huts which surround it are certainly no ornamental appendages. But, though inferior in almost every respect to the numerous remains of Gothic architecture in England, of which latter several have not their equals in any country, yet this cathedral, considered by some to be the most respectable specimen of that style of building in the sister island, is at the least worthy of a better fate, than to be suffered to totter into irretrievable ruin, (which from present appearances seems to be its no very distant doom,) or to be demolished for the purpose of rebuilding it in a more elevated situation. To the latter plan, indeed, the dean and chapter have evinced a decided objection, although they have in a very spirited manner set apart a portion of their incomes towards the creation of a repairing fund; and their great object is said to be to restore the building in its original form, dimensions, and style of architecture. The steeple and choir, which are either of later date or have been more substantially repaired than the other parts of the building, are alone likely to remain entire for any long period to come; the former, in particular, is still perfectly sound, and a principal ornament to the exterior. The height of the tower is 120 feet, that of the spire which surmounts it 103, so that the whole elevation is 223 feet. The ground all around the cathedral is higher by several steps than the floor of the interior; a circumstance which has been remarked of many other antique buildings, and is the consequence of a gradual accumulation of the external soil.

Withinside, the general effect is heavy and monotonous; and, as may be readily conceived, the timbers with which it has been found necessary to support the roof are no additional embellishment. The nave is 130

feet long, the choir 90, and St. Mary's Chapel 55; the transept 157. In the latter is the chapter-house, in which are suspended the banners and other insignia of the Knights of St. Patrick, deceased; and in a niche of the wall contiguous is the little basin of water, still venerated under the appellation of St. Patrick's Well. The choir and transept are both utterly disfigured by a plain division of plaster. But in the choir, which is still the most pleasing part of the edifice, are the archbishop's throne, the banners and insignia of the living Knights of St. Patrick, a striking altar-piece, and handsome organ, reputed to be the best in the island. On the right of the altar is a 'huge mass of deformity,' intended to perpetuate the memory of 16 individuals of the Boyle family, whose figures in stone, gaudily painted over, occupy the several compartments. The whole is a confused and tasteless jumble of stone, wood, paint, and gilding—a disgrace to the choir, and to the sculptor (if he may deserve the name) who planned it. Monuments scarcely inferior to this in ugliness, are also erected here in remembrance of Thomas Jones, Archbishop of Dublin, and of a Viscount Ranelagh; while a plain black marble slab bears a Latin memorial to the gallant Duke Schomberg, who was killed at the battle of the Boyne.

“ The oldest monument in the nave is that of Michael Tregury, Archbishop of Dublin in 1471; it is only a large tomb-stone, seven feet by four, which was dug out of the ruins when St. Stephen's Chapel was repaired in 1730, and removed by the dean and chapter to its present situation in the western wall, near the entrance: on the stone is represented, in basso-relievo, the bishop in his pontifical habit, with his pastoral staff in his hand surmounted by a crucifix; and round the margin of the stone is the following inscription in old English characters:

Jesus est Salvator meus. Præsul Michael hic Dubliniensis marmore tumbatus. Pro me Christum flagitetis.

" Affixed to two contiguous pillars on the south side of the nave are two plain slabs of marble, in memory of Dean Swift, and Mrs. Johnson, who is now well known to have been his wife: the inscription on the slab which marks the spot where the ashes of that great and singular man at length repose, was written by himself, and is expressive 'of that habit of mind which his own disappointments and the oppressions of his country had produced:'

Hic depositum est corpus
JONATHAN SWIFT, S. T. D.
Hujus Ecclesiæ Cathedralis
Decani,
Ubi sæva Indignatio
Ulterius
Cor lacerare nequit.
Abi Viator
Et imitare, si poteris,
Strenuum pro virili
Libertatis vindicatorem.
Obiit 19^o die mensis Octobris
A.D. 1745. Anno Ætatis 78^o

" Over this monument has been placed his bust in marble, sculptured by Cunningham, and esteemed a good likeness; it was the gift of T. T. Faulkner, esq., nephew and successor to Alderman George Faulkner, Swift's bookseller, and the original publisher of most of his works.—The inscription over his amiable and much-injured wife is as follows:

Underneath lie the mortal remains of Mrs. Hester Johnson, better known to the world by the name of Stella, under which she is celebrated in the writings of Doctor Jonathan Swift, Dean of this Cathedral. She was a person of extraordinary endowments and accomplishments of body, mind, and behaviour; justly admired and respected by all who knew her, on account of her many eminent virtues, as well as for her great natural and acquired perfections. She died Jan 27th, 1727-8, in the 46th year of her age, and by her will bequeathed one thousand pounds towards the support of a Chaplain to the Hospital founded in this city by Doctor Steevens.

" In an obscure corner near the southern entrance is

also a small tablet of white marble, with the following inscription :

Here lieth the body of Alexander M^cGee, servant to Doctor Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's. His grateful master caused this monument to be erected in memory of his discretion, fidelity, and diligence, in that humble station. Obiit Mar. 24, 172½. *Ætatis* 29."*

In this part of the interior there are, besides, two well-executed memorials—the one to Doctor Narcissus Marsh, who bequeathed the library contiguous to the cathedral to the public for their free use, the other to Doctor Thomas Smyth ; both estimable archbishops of Dublin. The other monuments are no ways remarkable.

Marsh's Library, just alluded to, is open every day from eleven o'clock till three, when graduates and all other persons of genteel appearance are allowed access to it. Previously to the establishment of reading-societies and other similar institutions, the archbishop's bequest proved a very valuable one to the literary inhabitants of Dublin; but the books becoming antique, and others of a more modern and interesting kind increasing daily in circulation, this library is now little visited, unless by the learned few. Harris, in his continuation of Ware's Bishops, mentions it: "I am under the necessity," he observes, "of acknowledging, from long experience, that this is the only useful library in the kingdom, being open to all strangers, and at all seasonable hours. But there is one thing wanting to render it more complete, which is a supply of books, from the time of its establishment there being only £10 per annum allotted for this purpose, which is little more than sufficient to keep the books in repair." From this it appears that the library was in considerable estimation at the time Harris wrote, while the defect to which he refers sufficiently accounts for the gradual decline of its utility.

* Whitelaw and Walsh, vol. I., pp. 481, 482.

St. Patrick's Deanery containing nothing farther to interest, we shall content ourselves with giving the number of its inhabitants and houses in 1814, of which the former were 2246, the latter 149; and proceed by Patrick-street, skirting the parish of St. Bride, without deviating from our track to visit the parochial church in the street of that name, as it is a plain stone edifice, of which description would be superfluous. Neither is there any thing worthy of remark in this parish, if we except the transformation which has taken place of the Royal Hibernian Theatre in Peter-street, into the Molyneux Asylum for the Blind; and this we mention only as a further instance of the incongeniality of public amusements to the habits of the citizens of Dublin; an incongeniality which must appear to be on the increase, if we remember that Smock-alley Theatre also is become a parochial chapel, and Ranelagh a convent. In 1814, the number of inhabitants in this parish was 9639, that of the houses 745. It contains several genteel private streets, while the more busy parts are chiefly occupied by merchants and tradespeople.

St. Nicholas Within, to which we approach by Nicholas-street, is the smallest parish in Dublin, but from its central situation is the abode of many of the more wealthy shop-keepers. The houses in 1814 were in number only 102, the inhabitants 1447. In Nicholas-street is the parochial church, with its tolerably lofty, but, as usual, spireless square steeple: contiguous to it formerly stood the building which bore the name of the Tholsel. This was a massy and not inelegant stone edifice, deriving its name "from the old words toll-stall, i. e. the toll-gatherer's stall or seat, being the place where the collectors attended to receive the toll or custom for such goods as were liable to the city imposts." It was the Guildhall of Dublin: its destruction has been supposed to have originated in the nature of the ground on which it was built, the substratum being con-

jectured to be bog, as in the case of the church of St. Michael, the ruins of which were not more than 30 yards distant, and which was ascertained to have owed its fall to this cause.—A fact this, which affords a curious proof of the high antiquity of bogs, since both these structures were within the ancient walls, and consequently these subterraneous productions must have derived their existence from forests growing upon this spot prior, it is probable, to the christian era. The oldest Irish name for Dublin is *Drom-Choll-Coil*, which means ‘the brow of the *hazel-wood*.’

Christ-Church-lane, to which we arrive by pursuing the line of Nicholas-street, contains the cathedral of that name, the most ancient edifice in Dublin, having been built by a son of one of the kings of the Ostmen about the year 1038. But in 1562, the massy stone roof proving too weighty for its supports, the decayed and neglected walls, that which formed the south side of the nave at length gave way, and the roof of course was involved in its fall. The latter was replaced by mean naked timbers, and the former by a mere blank wall, on which is this laconic inscription:

THE : RIGHT : HONORABL : T : ERL : OF : SUSSEX : L : LEVTNT :
THIS : WAL : FEL : DOWN : IN : AN : 1562 × THE : BILDING :
OF : THIS : WAL : WAS : IN : AN : 1570.

The north wall, which has now existed nearly eight centuries, and which is secured for a time by frame-work and a stone buttress, cannot, however, it appears probable, remain to a very distant period, as it has plainly departed from the line of perpendicularity: its fall will be the more to be regretted, as its style is as superior as its antiquity to any part of the cathedral of St. Patrick. Sir Richard Hoare observes that Christ Church “presents several specimens of *Saxon* architecture. The northern front has an ornamented Saxon portal: the transepts are chiefly of the same order, though we may

~~made~~ an early introduction of the pointed arch, but still retaining its Saxon decorations; of which we see two good examples in the aisle leading from the transept on the right of the choir. The choir presents a sad medley of Gothic and Italian architecture combined in the most unnatural manner."

Externally this cathedral is entirely choked up by mean buildings, and the ruins of the old Four Courts, which latter, yet more anciently, were parts of an episcopal palace. The interior has an air of neatness and decency not visible in the sister cathedral, nor indeed very prevalent in the other sacred edifices of Dublin; a peculiarity which in this instance reflects honour on the present dean and chapter. The pavement has been considerably elevated since the erection of the building, to which circumstance it is owing that the basements of the pillars are no longer to be seen. In the nave, against the dead stone wall already mentioned, are several monuments, one of which, bearing figures said to represent Richard Strongbow and his wife Eva, has the inscription following:

THIS : AVNCEYENT : MONVMENT : OF : RYCHARD : STRANGBOWE :
 CALLED : COMES : STRANGVLENSIS : LORD : OF : CHEPSTO : AND :
 OGNV : THE : FIRST : AND : PRYNCIPALL : INVADER : OF :
 IRLAND : 1169 : QUI : OBIIT : 1177 : THE : MONVMENT : WAS :
 BROKEN : BY : THE : FALL : OF : THE : ROFF : AND : BODYE :
 OF : CHRISTES : CHVRCHE : IN : AN : 1562 : AND : SET : VP :
 AGAYNE : AT : THE : CHARGYS : OF : THE : RIGHT : HONORABLE :
 SR : HENRI : SYDNEY : KNYGHT : OF : THE : NOBLE : ORDER : L :
 PRESIDENT : OF : WAILES : L : DEPVTY : OF : IRLAND : 1570.

But doubts have been entertained whether the illustrious chieftain was actually buried in this cathedral, and, if he were, whether this has been correctly stated to be his monument. Leland mentions an epitaph, "*Hic jacet Ricūs Strongbow,*" &c. as occurring on the walls of the chapter-house in Gloucester Cathedral; but the testimony of Giraldus Cambrensis, a contemporary

historian, who expressly states that his obsequies were celebrated "*in ecclesiâ Sanctæ Trinitatis*,"* we think should prevent farther question as to the *place* of his interment. As to the identity of the monument, Sir Richard Hoare remarks that "though the generality of authors seem to think that Strongbow was buried in Christ's Church, still some doubt may be entertained if this effigy has been rightly attributed to him. The knight bears on his shield the following arms, viz. *Argent, on a chief azure, three crosses crosslet's fitchèe of the field*. On referring to Enderbie, and also to an ancient manuscript by George Owen, I find that the arms of this chieftain were, *Or, three chevrons gules, a crescent for difference*. How then can this be the effigy of Strongbow?"

In the nave are also an elegant monument to Lord Bowes, executed by Van Nost; another to Lord Lifford, with his arms, and the motto he chose upon being appointed to his high office,† '*Be just and fear not*;' and another, surmounted by the bust of Thomas Prior, the father of the Dublin Society, and bearing a scroll on which is recorded, that '*This monument was erected to Thomas Prior, esquire, at the charge of several persons who contributed to honour the memory of that worthy patriot, to whom his veracity, actions, and unwearied endeavours in the service of his country, have raised a monument more lasting than marble.*'

The choir has a fine monument to Robert, the nineteenth earl of Kildare, whose son was created Duke of Leinster; and a plain white marble tablet memorializes the exemplary character of Thomas Fletcher, Bishop of Kildare, to which see the deanery of Christ Church is attached.

The transept is still in good preservation: the Chapel of St. Mary, on the north side of the choir, is also in ex-

* *Hibernia Expugnata*, book XI. ch: 14.

† Both these distinguished noblemen were Lord Chancellors of Ireland.

cellent repair, and was the ordinary place of worship for the parishioners of St. Michael, while their own church was rebuilding. The steeple is a plain square tower, totally divested of the graces of architecture.

Christ Church was a priory and convent until the Reformation, when Henry the Eighth converted it into a deanery and chapter, consisting of the dean, a chancellor, chanter, treasurer, and six vicars-choral. The coronation of the impostor Lambert Simnel, who assumed the title of Edward the Sixth, took place in this cathedral in the year 1468. In 1554, Archbishop Brown erected three prebends here; and in 1559, as appears by a statute enacted in the reign of Henry the Sixth, the parliament sat within these venerable walls; while in Christ Church it was also, that the English Liturgy was read for the first time in Ireland on Easter Sunday, 1550. In the constitution of Henry, James the First made some alterations; from the latter reign the foundation having been composed of a dean, chanter, chancellor, three prebendaries, six vicars-choral, and four choristers.

The population of Christ-Church Deanery in 1814, amounted to 250 inhabitants only; the number of houses 23.

EXCURSION IV.

Through the Parishes of St. John, St. Michael, St. Audeon, St. Catherine, St. Nicholas Without, St. Luke, and St. James.

ST. John's parish is of small extent, and contains nothing particularly interesting. Wine Tavern-street, which adjoins Christ-Church-lane, (where we terminated

the preceding Excursion,) extends to the quays of its northern extremity, and to Richmond Bridge, so named from the Lord Lieutenant under whose government it was commenced in the year 1813. In sinking for the foundation of the south abutment of this structure, as we are informed in Whitelaw and Walsh's History, "there were found in the excavations, made four feet below the bed of the river at low water, several pieces of German, Spanish, and British coins, the latter, of Philip and Mary and Elizabeth; together with cannon-balls, (about 12-pounders,) pike-heads, and other implements of war. These were all lying upon a stratum of sand, about seven feet thick, under which was a bed of clay, eight feet thick, which rested on the solid rock, where the foundation was laid. In sinking for a foundation for the north abutment, two very ancient, in appearance, and rudely-formed boats were discovered. These were 18 feet long, from stem to stern. They were caulked with moss, and in one of them was found a large human skeleton. They were imbedded in a stratum of sand, about seven feet thick, which appeared to have been deposited at once by some great flood, as it was not in layers, and was perfectly free from sediment. It is further remarkable, that the foundation of the old Liffey wall was laid about four feet above these boats and sand-bank, and rested upon them." The bridge has three arches, is entirely constructed of Portland stone, and was raised at an expense of £25,800.

On the key-stones of the arches are well-executed heads, on the one side of the Liffey, Plenty, and Industry, and on the other of Hibernia, Peace, and Commerce. The length is 220 feet, and its breadth surpasses that of all the bridges of the British capital, being 52 feet. It is altogether a very handsome erection.

St. John's parish-church is situated in Fishamble-street, and has a handsome Doric front of hewn stone: it is not otherwise remarkable. The inhabitants of this parish

in 1814 were estimated at 4346, the houses at 277. The population consists chiefly of reputable traders, and of the mechanics and artisans dependent on them.

High-street, likewise adjoining Christ-Church-lane, forms a principal portion of the little parish of St. Michael. The body of the parochial church has been lately rebuilt in a neat style, but the steeple is ancient. This parish contains no other public edifice. Its inhabitants in 1814 were 2011, its houses 130.

From High-street, St. Audeon's parish, comprising numerous streets, lanes, and alleys of an inferior description, extends westward to Watling-street (situated on the skirts of the city) and Usher's Island. Here (not to fatigue the reader by the detail of these intervening streets, &c.) is Barrack Bridge, formerly built of wood in 1761, and, from a fatal affray on it, then called *Bloody* Bridge, but subsequently constructed of stone, and from its vicinity to the Barracks obtaining its present name. A gateway of Gothic architecture, with four corner towers, is a conspicuous object at this end, and, accompanied with the country view from the spot, makes an interesting appearance; it leads to Kilmainham Hospital. The bridge itself is a plain erection of four arches. Queen's Bridge, a neat stone structure of three arches, lies a short distance eastward; it was called Arran Bridge when first built in 1683, but having been destroyed by a flood, was re-erected and named after her late Majesty in 1768.

The parochial church of St. Audeon has a lofty steeple, though, from its situation, it is little noticed; the whole building being secluded from observation by the surrounding houses. In 1814, the parish contained 4667 inhabitants, and 412 houses.

From Queen's Bridge, Bridge-foot-street, extending southwards towards Thomas-street, conducts to the parish of St. Catherine. This parish, which for its extent is excessively populous, (as by the return of 1814,

17,104 inhabitants were found crowded in 1350 houses,) presents a lively picture of the complicated miseries already detailed as appertaining to the worse than *St. Giles's* of Dublin. Some few affluent manufacturers reside in the principal street just mentioned, but the great proportion of the inhabitants are the sickly and squalid room-keepers, whose miserable tenements some of our readers may think we have but too faithfully described. To avoid painful repetitions, therefore, we shall very briefly notice the few additional subjects for remark in this quarter. In Thomas-street is St. Catherine's Church, wanting a steeple, but possessing a handsome front of mountain stone, with semi-columns of the Doric order. Here also is a Market-house, with a basement of piazzas; an unsightly erection, and a great obstruction to the thoroughfare.

By the avenues called St. Thomas Court and Tripoli, we reach Pimlico, and the Coombe. On the lower part of the latter stands Weavers' Hall, the interior of which is spacious, and has some curious portraits. Among them is one of George the Second, in tapestry, executed half a century back, at a period when the introduction of that manufacture was unsuccessfully attempted in this city: it has an inscription which informs us that this specimen was produced

‘ By John Vanbeaver,
‘ Liberty Weaver.’

The little area of Weavers'-square may be arrived at from the Coombe by Crooked and Chambre-streets. At its south-western extremity, in Brown-street, is the Tenter-house, a spacious handsome building, charitably erected for the accommodation, in wet seasons, of the numerous inhabitants of the Liberties employed in the woollen manufacture, by Mr. Pleasants.* Until this

* Whose “ acts of *private* beneficence are not less useful, though sometimes tinged with an amiable eccentricity. Happening one Sunday to hear a sermon of which he approved, he conveyed a re-

benevolent work was performed, the usual method of drying the cloths and warps was by means of tenters in the open air, an operation attended with incessant interruptions in so variable a clime as that of Ireland. "It is on these occasions," says Mr. Walsh, "that the streets of Dublin exhibit to a stranger such an extraordinary spectacle. When industry is thus suspended, and the people of this district unemployed, the whole population emigrate from their desolate homes, and pour down upon the more opulent parts of the city. The passenger is every moment surrounded by groups of strange figures, remarkably different from those to which his eye has been accustomed. Their greasy and squalid dress, and pallid faces, strikingly distinguish them; and a certain cast of countenance on which sickness and famine stamp a ghastly expression, often excites surprise and alarm. It is much to the credit of the poor people, that the *alarm* is unfounded: their distresses often render them importunate, but they never behave with incivility, much less with outrage." An evil of such magnitude has been in a great measure removed by the munificence of the individual, whose name we have with so much pleasure recorded. The edifice in Brown-street is of three stories, crowned with a cupola and spire. The weavers' arms appear in front, and the approach is by a large area laid down with grass-plots, walks, and shrubs; the whole possessing a neat and cheerful appearance. The entire building is artificially heated by horizontal metal tubes, communicating with furnaces on the ground floor; by means of which the indigent manufacturer, at the trifling cost of 2s. 6d. for

quest to the preacher that he would suffer him to read the manuscript, which was readily complied with. The next day he returned the sermon with a letter of thanks, intimating at the same time that he had taken the liberty of adding a *note* to the passage which particularly struck him. On referring to the place, the astonished preacher found a *bank-note* for a considerable amount folded in the leaf."—*Whitelaw and Walsh, vol. II. p. 986.*

a piece of cloth, and 5d. for a chain of warp, (the annual amount of which sums scarcely defrays the expense of coals and necessary items,) is enabled to pursue his work in the most inclement seasons; while the proprietor, totally renouncing the idea of remuneration, has vested the establishment in the hands of trustees, for the general benefit; an example of disinterested generosity rarely paralleled, even in a country where the finer feelings of the heart so often outstrip all mercenary, and sometimes even the necessary prudential views, and where the growth of philanthropy appears spontaneous.

Brick-field-lane conveys us hence to Cork-street, at the western end of which is the Fever Hospital, an institution admirably planned and conducted with a view to the cure of this disease within its walls, and the extermination of contagion in the dwellings from whence the patients have been removed. Such institutions are calculated to effect all that possibly can be effected, towards the removal of that predisposition to low fever so universal among the Dublin poor; but which, arising as it mainly does from the filthy habits of these wretched beings in their crowded habitations, nothing but the strong arm of a vigilant police can permanently obviate. The edifice is plainly constructed of brick and granite, and consists of two long parallel buildings, and a centre, connected by a covered colonnade.

This parish is farther distinguished by the Dublin Free-school House, in School-street, which admits 600 children of all religious denominations for Sabbath, and not less than 800 for daily, instruction; and its utility in the midst of a catholic population, may be very fairly estimated by the liberality of spirit evinced in its foundation. Its chief promoters were the quakers, a considerable number of whom are resident in the parish; and the most remarkable peculiarity in the structure is the apartment allotted to the superintendant, which, by the

contrivance of the architect is made to command a view of the four different schools situated on separate floors; a plan which has been since adopted with success in several of the neighbouring manufactories. Dr. Bell's system is in use here, and its benefits are extensively apparent.

In the parish of St. Catherine's also stands the national prison for debtors, known by the name of the Four Courts Marshalsea: it is much too small for its purpose, and its crowded and offensive state called for the interference of commissioners appointed by the legislature in 1808; since when some of its most obnoxious features have disappeared.

We have purposely omitted the detail of our perambulations through the parishes of St. Nicholas Without and St. Luke, as they contain little to interest the general reader, though that little we shall faithfully describe. The parochial church of the former is in ruins: its population in 1814 amounted to 9409 souls, the houses then being 722. Clothiers, victuallers, manufacturers, and the labouring poor, compose the great proportion of the inhabitants.

On the Coombe is one of the schools founded by Erasmus Smith, esq., the governors of which were constituted a body corporate by Charles the Second. Their revenue has increased, in consequence of the recent rises in the value of the estates bequeathed to them, till the gross rental at length considerably exceeds £7000 per annum; by which circumstance they have been enabled to erect other schools in various parts of the country, as well as to endow professorships in Trinity College, and to add to the number of boys in Blue-coat Hospital.

Perhaps an institution of more vital importance (considered as the first of its kind,) to the future welfare of Ireland does not exist, than the humble Sunday-School dependant on the baptist congregation of Swift's-alley, in this

parish; which is distinguished, Mr. Walsh observes, by the “remarkable feature” that “a master is provided who teaches Irish, and about 20 of the children avail themselves of his instruction.” Pity indeed it is, that in a country nearly one half of whose inhabitants converse in Irish, a school supplying instruction in that language to 20 scholars should be deemed *remarkable*, notwithstanding, as by the same respectable authority we are informed, “it is found that they learn to read the language they have been accustomed to speak with greater facility than a foreign one,”* and “they are therefore first taught to read Irish books, and learn to read English through this medium.” But about the period of the erection of this school, the Hibernian Baptist Society was also instituted; whose main object is the establishment of schools throughout the country for the purpose of teaching *Irish exclusively*: and thus have this denomination of christian professors obtained the singular honour of commencing a work, which, as to all its objects and relations, may justly be styled national.—We must however be permitted to remark of this society, that did its Reports adopt a more conciliatory tone towards its popish brethren, than in some instances they have evinced, and did they less openly avow the scheme of particular proselytism, its efforts would in all probability be crowned with greater success. The exertions of the society have been at present chiefly confined to the provinces of Munster and Connaught, where indeed from the greater prevalence of the Irish language they were most wanted; and here they have commenced labours, in which their perseverance, we trust, will be at least equal to their already obvious utility. The distribution of books in Erse is one among their principal objects, and they have published two grammars of that ancient language.

* It may strike the reader with some slight astonishment to observe so natural and obvious a circumstance communicated with so much gravity.

The number of children educated in their schools is upwards of 1000.

We may not meet with a more favourable opportunity than the present, for noticing that the Hibernian Bible Society, now auxiliary to the British and Foreign, have been active in the dispersion of Testaments in the Irish tongue; and we hope the English Society, which supplied them, will not be backward to publish a version of the entire Scriptures, in the same language. The government was once hostile to the cultivation of the native dialect, from a view to its ultimate suppression, but their measures were always found to have a directly opposite effect to that which they contemplated. Now that more liberal sentiments are entertained, we have little doubt that Irish, at least as an *oral* tongue, will of itself expire, in the course, it may be, of another century; provided (which cannot be likely) that it be not again fostered by its proscription, and the English language (by tyranny similar to that anciently exercised) be not once more rendered detestable to men, to whom, at a former period, it conveyed no other ideas than those of the oppressions they laboured under.*

The parochial church of St. Luke, on the south side of the Coombe, is a wholly uninteresting structure: the parishioners were estimated by the return of 1814 at 7300, resident in 460 houses.

Meath Hospital, also on the Coombe, is a well-built edifice, with a front of mountain stone: the original building was in Meath-street. By act of parliament, with consent of the subscribers to the more recent

* In the year 1786 occurred the memorable controversy of Father O'Leary with the bishop of Cloyne. His Lordship had proposed that the Irish language should be suppressed, in order that the people might be instructed by the clergyman of the parish: O'Leary suggested whether it would not be easier for one man (the clergyman) to learn Irish, than for a whole parish to learn English; and said his Lordship's proposal reminded him of the echo in Erasmus, *Quid est sacerdotium?—otium.*

erection, it was in 1774 constituted the County of Dublin Infirmary, with an allowance of £100 per annum, to which £600 are added by yearly presentment; and the benefits of the institution are thus extended much beyond the Earl of Meath's Liberty, for the relief of whose poor manufacturers it was at first exclusively designed. The governors are incorporated, and consist of their Graces the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin, the Lord High Chancellor, and the Vicar of St. Catherine's, for the time being: the physicians and surgeons attend gratuitously. Mr. Pleasants, already mentioned to his praise, gave £6000 to this hospital, to erect an operation-room, and provide additional comforts for such patients as it is found necessary to subject to amputation.

North-westwardly from Cork-street, to which we had conducted the reader, lie the harbour and stores for inland trade of the Grand Canal, from whence this noble work commences. These are in the parish of St. James. This harbour, with the buildings attached, covers an area of more than 23 acres, and the canal itself is not exceeded in its dimensions by any in the empire; yet we should do wrong to estimate the commercial results of the undertaking by its external show of magnificence. Ireland has long possessed the ingenuity to project national works, even before the necessity for them had become manifest; but, having *projected*, to parliament it has been generally left to execute them; and their very small comparative proportion of usefulness has not usually been discovered until after their completion. Even when parliamentary grants, to a large amount, had been made for the purpose of creating an inland navigation through the country, the grossest mismanagement and incapacity in the commissioners appointed to carry on the works, were found, after a series of years, to have rendered the efforts of the legislature nearly nugatory; the scheme of bounties to

associated companies, therefore, was at last hit upon, and the first apparent effect was the completion of the Grand Canal, by which Dublin is united both to the Shannon and the Barrow rivers, and a communication obtained from sea to sea across the island. But "in England," Mr. Griffith, an Irish gentleman, observes, bounties are "not demanded, nor even thought of, because canals there are the *effect* of internal wealth and population, of an improved state of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce; in Ireland we must look to inland navigation as an efficient *cause* of producing, or at least as the best means of facilitating, those happy effects: in England it is almost impossible to extend a canal 10 miles in any direction, without intersecting two, three, or more populous towns; in Ireland, *it may be expected*, that in the process of a few years, manufacturing towns *may* be raised on the banks of our navigable waters."

The summit level of the line of highest elevation between the capital and the rivers above-mentioned, being only about 202 feet above the level of the harbour in St. James's parish, the execution of this great work was by so favourable a circumstance rendered comparatively easy: but a difficulty occurred from the necessity of conducting the cut through the vast turbary called the Bog of Allen, and the Hill of Downings, the latter 17, the commencement of the former 19 miles from Dublin. The tunnel beneath the hill is nearly two English miles in length, and has a depth of 40 feet from its top; but this was a light achievement compared to the passage through the bog, the excessive moisture and almost undulating soil of which presented obstacles that the most ardent perseverance alone could conquer. When the work was at length accomplished, the bog was found to have sunk very considerably, in parts as much as 30 feet below its former level; so that many objects around, previously hidden by its dark surface, became, as if by sudden

enchantment, visible. Before the canal reaches the Hill of Downings, it has crossed five aqueducts; four of a single arch each, over the Kilmainham, Esker, and Morell rivers, and the grand Leinster aqueduct of seven arches over the Liffey, a work most ingeniously planned and very substantially executed. The banks, for about six miles after quitting the capital, are planted with rows of elms, which are flourishing, and a great improvement to their appearance. At the commencement of the Bog of Allen the southern branch diverges to the Barrow at Athy, which it reaches after a course exceeding 22 miles, passing through two double and 10 single locks; the other and principal branch traverses 41 miles in a westerly direction to the Shannon, communicating with Shannon harbour, and passes through one double and 17 single locks. The width of the canal at top is 45, at the bottom 25 feet.

In the vicinity of the Grand Canal, and lessened at the point of contiguity for the purpose of facilitating the connection of that work with the harbour near James-street, is a fine sheet of water, called the City Basin, designed as a reservoir for supplying Dublin with that necessary of life. Being situated nearly on the summit of the highest ground in the city, which has the appellation of Mount Brown, the walk round it commands a pleasing view of the adjacent country and Wicklow Mountains, and forms an elevated terrace, planted on either side with low quick-set hedges, and elms placed equidistantly, and combines all the advantages of a charming promenade. The basin is in the form nearly of a long parallelogram, narrower by 25 feet at its southern than at its northern extremity; its circumference is more than half an English mile. Before the east end of the city came to be considered as the exclusive abode of affluence and elegance, this basin was much frequented as a public walk by the more respectable class of citizens; but Merrion-square, and other fashionable lounges in the

same quarter, have latterly superseded its use, and it is now almost entirely resigned to the lower orders. The water of the reservoir is supplied by a cut from the little but impetuous river Dodder, and is conducted to it by means of tunnels under the Grand Canal. The western parts of the city only have of late obtained water from this source, as the whole east end is furnished from the two basins to the north and south recently excavated in the neighbourhood of the canals. The north-western part is still supplied from the City Basin by a branch carried over the Liffey upon Barrack Bridge.

Contiguous to the City Basin is the Foundling Hospital, the foundation of which was laid by Mary, Duchess of Ormond, in the year 1704; but the building was then destined to a purpose very different from that to which at present it is applied; being intended "to supply maintenance and comfort to the aged and infirm; to compel the idle vagrant, by labour and industry, to contribute to his own support; and to free the city from the number of loathsome objects that every where infested the streets." Since the change in the object of the institution, much has been said and written by contending parties in its censure and its praise: it becomes us merely to observe, that while the best of motives only could have originated a plan, calculated, if properly pursued, to rescue so numerous a body of our fellow-creatures from infamy, poverty, or destruction, abuses did undoubtedly creep into its management, which subsequent investigation has tended most materially to reform. During a period of 21 years, ending in 1796, it appeared that out of 10,272 children sent to the infirmary of the institution, the lives of *forty-five* only were preserved!—a mortality at which nature shudders, and which most justly became the subject of parliamentary enquiry. The happiest changes have, however, taken place in the conduct of this hospital, and with pleasure we record that the children now uniformly appear clean, contented, and

healthy. The present number upon the establishment is about 5000; of whom four-fifths may be with nurses in the country, salaries being paid to the latter by the institution. The admissions were formerly indiscriminate, nothing more being necessary than for the mother or other person intrusted with the child to place it in a basket affixed for that purpose to the principal entrance, and on ringing a bell the porter immediately conveyed it within. Thus the bearer of the infant could entirely escape notice, but he or she must now knock for admittance and personally deliver in their charge; but still no questions are asked: a circumstance which distinguishes this from most similar institutions. The hospital is supported by a tax, not exceeding one shilling in the pound, upon all houses within the city and within two miles of the castle of Dublin, and by parliamentary grants, which have been liberal.—A bridewell for vagrants still occupies a portion of the front of the building towards James-street.

An avenue conducts from James-street, nearly opposite the Foundling Hospital, to Bow-bridge, where is the Widows' Alms-house of the parish; deserving notice on account of the singular circumstances attached to its foundation, which was effected by an obscure individual, named John Loggins, of whom the following notice is extracted from Whitelaw and Walsh's History. "This extraordinary man, a native of Bow-bridge, filled for many years the humble occupation of a hackney-coachman; but his circumstances improving, he became possessed of a small property in houses in his own neighbourhood, to the value of about £40 per annum; but fell at length into the most abandoned state of drunkenness and profligacy. The life of a drunkard is necessarily exposed to various instances of distress, disgrace, and infamy; and of these John Loggins experienced a full proportion. He was arrested and imprisoned for drunken debts, and often by those whom he deemed his

sincerest friends; and it is recorded of him, that having reduced himself at a public tavern to a state of beastly intoxication, he was in that situation placed in a basket on a porter's back, and thus carried in open day through the public streets to his house in Bow-bridge. To a mind whose sensibilities were strong, the recollection of such scenes of disgrace were extremely painful; but the first instance of actual reformation in John Loggins was produced by the following incident. One of his coach-horses was so extremely vicious as to be approached with danger, and had often hurt those employed in cleaning his stall; yet this man passed an entire night in a state of senseless intoxication under this animal's feet, who during that time did not attempt to lie down, or injure him. This he immediately conceived to be an obvious interposition of Providence in his favour; and he instantly not only determined on a total reformation of life, but formed a resolution that the Sabbath should thenceforward be a day of rest to the animal that had spared him, and to his other horses, and he never afterwards was known to allow his coaches to ply on a Sunday.

“Some time afterwards, the wheels of a carriage he was driving had scarcely cleared Kilcullen Bridge, when the arch over which he had just passed gave way, and tumbled in ruins into the Liffey. This second interference of a protecting Providence determined his resolves for ever. He relinquished a profession which exposed him to peculiar temptations, sold his carriages and horses, became rigidly temperate in his diet, fasted two days in each week, and his domestic and public devotions, without being ostentatious, were distinguished for their frequency, regularity, and ardour.

“In the end, he conceived the idea of converting his unoccupied stables into an alms-house for poor widows, (and this from the savings of his income of £40 per annum!) and in the execution of his favourite plan be-

came mason and carpenter, and with his own hands, by incessant labour, fitted up in a short time his stable and hay-loft, with a view to this particular purpose. Some truly amiable females, induced by the history of this singular man to patronise his undertaking, supplied beds and bedding; and six indigent and aged females were, to his great satisfaction, speedily admitted into his asylum; to whom he supplied every comfort within the reach of his humble means, and when these failed, he was so indefatigable in his solicitations to the humane and wealthy in their behalf, that even on his fast days he has been known to undertake for this purpose long journeys on foot into the country, without relaxing from the severity of his abstinence, or taking any refreshment except a drink of his usual beverage, milk and water.

“ The success of his solicitations encouraged him to extend his views. His dwelling-house was contiguous to his little asylum, and room after room was added to it as his means increased; and at length he had the happiness to see 20 widows comfortably settled in his alms-house.

“ By his will he devised the building, with 40s. per annum towards its support, to the vicar and churchwardens of the parish of St. James; and an annual sermon preached in behalf of the institution, with the interest of a small sum saved from former collections, are the sources by means of which it is continued on its plan of unobtrusive usefulness.”

Westward from Bow-bridge, the road to Inchiore leads by Kilmainham Hospital, a royal mansion, built for the accommodation of disabled and superannuated soldiers, delightfully situated on an healthy eminence. This building was commenced under the government of the Duke of Ormond, in the year 1680, and was finished in little more than four years, at an expense of near £24,000. Here was formerly a Priory for Knights Templars, founded by Earl Strongbow, and afterwards

conferred on the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, to whom a stone fountain adjoining the burying-ground of the hospital is dedicated. In 1680 the remains of this priory were yet visible; and the stones of its chapel were carried with pious veneration by the workmen employed in the erection of the new edifice, to compose the chapel at present attached to the institution.

The hospital is quadrangular in its form, enclosing a large area laid out in grass plots and intersected with gravelled walks. Piazzas, forming a range of Doric arches, are connected with the building, and surround this area. Externally, the fronts, three of which are of brick, have nothing remarkable in their appearance; the fourth, or principal front to the north, is of stone, and has the additions of a steeple and spire. The great dining-hall, whose dimensions are 100 feet by 45, occupies the centre of the latter front; it is ornamented with muskets, bayonets, &c., disposed, in the same manner as in an armoury, around its walls: over these are 22 portraits, taken at full length, of Charles the Second, William and Mary, Queen Anne, several Lords-Lieutenant, and others. The chapel forms the east end of the same front, and the house of the governor, who is, by virtue of his office, commander-in-chief of the forces in Ireland, the west end. There are also the deputy-governor's house, an infirmary, and a number of offices, all detached from the principal building. The hospital will contain 400 pensioners; besides whom out-pensioners, to the number of nearly 3000, have an allowance from the establishment.

The new military road, lately finished, communicates with the principal front, (to which the approach is by an avenue of noble trees,) and leads from thence to the quay called Usher's Island: its entrance from this quay is by a well-executed gate in the Gothic style. From Sarah Bridge, by which Usher's Island is connected with the north bank of the river, we have a view of Phoenix Park, the country-seat of the Lord-Lieutenant. This

bridge is called the Dublin Rialto, being, like that so named at Venice, composed of a single arch; but the dimensions rather exceed those of the famed Venetian structure. Its length is 256 feet, its breadth 38. The key-stone of the arch is 22 feet above high-water mark. It takes its name from Sarah, Countess of Westmoreland, by whom the foundation was laid in June, 1791. In the vicinity of this bridge a commodious barrack for artillery has been recently erected.

The parochial church of St. James, situated on the north side of James-street, is a neat stone edifice, but which it is wholly unnecessary to describe. Contiguous to it is another barrack; and in an avenue on the same side of the street called Steevens'-lane, is the hospital of that name, a plain quadrangular building, over the entrance of which, on its east side, is the inscription following:

Ricardus Steevens, M. D. Dotavit.
Grissell Steevens soror ejus Ædificavit,
Anno Dom.
1720.

The benevolent founder of this hospital "for the relief and maintenance of curable poor persons," having bequeathed his estate for the purposes of the building, his sister, as appears by the inscription, commenced the edifice, and was liberally assisted to complete it by the benefactions of others.* The act of incorporation was obtained in 1730. Besides wards for the patients, here are a library, committee room, surgery, theatre, apothecary's shop, and laboratory. Over the entrance to the library appears, appended to a recapitulation of the names of the founders,

Edwardus Worth Archiater
Bibliothecam quam vides
Eruditam, nitidam, perpolitam.

* The activity with which Mrs. Steevens prosecuted this charitable work, was the more to be commended, as the estate was willed to *herself*, during her life, although she reserved out of it only about £120 per annum for her own support, with apartments in the hospital for her residence.

But it is to be regretted that the doctor's elegant collection had not been consigned to some institution where the books would have been *used*, since, from the unimpaired beauty of their bindings, were we even not otherwise assured of the fact, we should have been naturally led to infer, "that by the physicians, surgeons, and chaplains" of the hospital they are only *looked at*. The institution is supported by an annual income, arising from rents, of about £2400, and the yearly grant from parliament of £500.

St. Patrick's Hospital for lunatics and idiots, called also *Swift's Hospital* from its celebrated founder, stands on the north side of Bow-lane, to which it presents a neat front of mountain stone, but is separated from it by an area inclosed within a substantial wall. This, until very recently, was the only institution of its kind in Ireland which received pauper-lunatics; of whom there are constantly upwards of 100 on the establishment; besides about 60 ward and chamber-boarders, who pay an annual stipend for support and medical attendance. The reception of paupers *only* was contemplated by the worthy dean, in the bequeathment of his whole property to erect this monument of his considerate philanthropy; but as the funds were found inadequate to the support of so many paupers as the building would contain, the governors were induced to receive the number of boarders mentioned, the savings from whose payments are made to contribute to the comforts of the poorer lunatics.

Near Kilmainham in this parish are the Richmond Barracks for infantry, a very extensive range of buildings; near to which is the Prison of Kilmainham, a spacious erection of modern date.

In 1814, the inhabitants of St. James's parish were in number 5649, the houses 455.

EXCURSION V.

*Through the Parishes of St. Paul, St. Michan, St. Mary,
St. George, and St. Thomas.*

THE parish of St. Paul, the first, north of the Liffey, which has been introduced to the notice of the reader, is of some importance, considered as to the number of its inhabitants; (who in 1814 were estimated at 9560, the houses at 746;) and contains, among other public buildings, the Royal Barracks, not to be surpassed in Europe, for extent, and grandeur of architecture.

These barracks, erected by government in the year 1706, occupy an elevated site on the bank opposite to that where stands the parish of St. James, through which we had conducted the reader at the close of the foregoing Excursion. Their situation, if we regard only its salubrity, is excellent, and possesses a commanding view both of the city and adjacent country, with the Wicklow Mountains in the distance. They consist of four squares, of which the Royal Square is the principal, and that most embellished: altogether, they are adapted to accommodate 5000 men.

Contiguous to the barracks is the Blue-coat Hospital, originally an extensive but irregular building situated more eastward, and fronting Queen-street, but since rebuilt on its present site in a style of extreme elegance. The date of the first erection was 1670; shortly after which Charles the Second bestowed the charter, wherein was expressed, that his Majesty had “granted to the lord-mayor, sheriffs, commons, and citizens of Dublin, and their successors for ever, all that piece and parcel

of ground in Oxmantown Green, near the said city; where the intended hospital and school is already built; to be held of his Majesty, as of his castle of Dublin, in free and common soccage, as a mansion-house, and place of abode, *for the sustentation and relief of poor children, aged, maimed, and impotent people, inhabiting or residing in the said city of Dublin.*" But the governors, finding the donations not equal to the support of a charity upon so extensive a scale, were, about the year 1680, necessitated to confine the benefits of the institution to the sons and grandsons of decayed citizens, and to such only they continue to be extended.

The present structure was commenced in 1773, during the viceroyalty of the Earl of Harcourt, by whom the foundation-stone was laid. "It consists of a centre and wings, extending 300 feet; and connected with each other in the rear, by subordinate buildings, of which the lower part is screened from the eye by handsome circular walls in front, ornamented with niches, balustrades, and urns.

"The central pile, 87 feet by 58, and 43 in height to the parapet, is of the Ionic order, and consists of a rustic basement with two upper stories; in the centre an elegant angular pediment is supported by four Ionic columns resting on the basement story, and over this rises the steeple, from the want of means as yet unfinished; a circumstance much to be regretted, as it appears, from the original drawings of Mr. Ivory, (the architect,) uncommonly light and elegant: it was intended to consist of two octagonal lanthorns, ornamented with Corinthian and Composite columns, with an intermediate stage for the clock, and crowned with a light oval dome, ball, and vane, the latter 140 feet from the ground.—The spacious area in front is enclosed with a handsome substantial iron palisade on a dwarf wall, in which there are two gates.

"The northern wing, decorated by a turret rising from the roof, is the chapel, which is fitted up with taste

and elegance: the breadth and height are each 32 feet, and the harmony of these proportions immediately strikes the eye: it is lighted perhaps too strongly for the solemnity of religious worship. Over the communion-table is a handsome painting of the Resurrection, executed by Mr. Waldron in 1783.

“ The southern wing, in its dimensions and exterior decorations perfectly similar to the northern, contains a spacious school-room, 65 feet by 32, decorated, or, to speak more justly, disfigured by some portraits in a wretchedly filthy state, removed hither from the Tholsel,* with a few belonging to the hospital; these represent George II. and Queen Caroline, William III. and Queen Mary, Queen Anne, General Ginkle, Dean Drelincourt, the city arms, &c.

“ The rear, or western front, was intended to consist of a centre and wings connected by subordinate buildings, all of plain substantial masonry, and extending about 350 feet: of the wings, which project 95 feet, that to the south only has as yet been built, and in this we find the dining-hall and principal dormitories.

“ The exterior elegance and beauty of this edifice are almost sufficient to silence any censure on the principle to which they owe their existence: but when we reflect that the children of decayed citizens, for whose accommodation and instruction the institution was principally intended, had, from the want of the means of support, dwindled from 170 to 120, we cannot help expressing regret that it was thought necessary to erect a palace for their accommodation. Substantial edifices of plain masonry are, certainly, the most appropriate to institutions where charity is the object, and of which economy should be the leading principle.”† The number of boys at present in the school is 150: the annual income, inclusive of the donation of £1000 from the governors of Erasmus Smith’s Schools, amounts to about £4300.

* Of this building mention occurs in Excursion III.

† Whitelaw and Walsh’s History, vol. I.

Proceeding northwards from the Blue-coat Hospital, and making an angle to the east at King-street, we pass St. Paul's Church, an old rough stone edifice, by much too small for the numerous parishioners to whose use it is applied. Continuing our route in this direction, we arrive at Smithfield, the principal market in Dublin for cattle and hay, forming an oblong square, superior in its appearance to the market of the same name in London, but smaller, and, on account of the narrowness of its approaches, infinitely less convenient. The number of oxen, sheep, and swine, bought up in this market, and exported *alive*, amounts annually to 36,000; besides large quantities slaughtered for the same purpose, or for home consumption.

The little avenue called Red-cow-lane conducts us hence to Brunswick-street, in which is situated the House of Industry, a very extensive establishment, whose objects are various, and have separate parts of the building appropriated to them. The general plan obtained the sanction of the legislature in 1777, since when £4000 have been annually granted in its support; and as the voluntary contributions by which the institution was formed, have altogether ceased, this sum has latterly become its sole dependance. The act of incorporation in 1771 states "that Houses of Industry shall consist of four parts: the first, for such poor helpless men as shall be judged worthy of admission; the second, for women of a similar description; the third, for male vagabonds or sturdy beggars; and the fourth, for such idle, strolling, and disorderly women, as shall be committed to the hospital." By the same act the institution is "ordered and required to seize strolling vagrants, &c. and to commit them to the House of Industry, to be kept at hard labour from two months to four years, according to circumstances, and to inflict reasonable corporal punishment, in cases of refusal to work, or of ill behaviour."—But all who come in voluntarily may quit the house when they think proper. In pursuance

of the system of coercion, a vehicle, called the *black cart*, used to be frequently driven about the streets of Dublin, in which vagrants, who by timely notice had not found the means to escape, were carried off to the institution: the cart was usually followed by the mob; and, in the performance of this duty, scenes of mingled ludicrousness and distress were perpetually witnessed. For a considerable time past, however, the voluntary applications for admission have been so numerous as to render the cart unnecessary: and yet the streets appeared not, until latterly, the less infested with beggars; a circumstance to be accounted for only on the supposition, that mendicants in all parts of Ireland having gradually come to the knowledge of the institution, their perpetual influx to the capital, either to obtain admission within its walls, or to supply the places of their brethren who had been admitted, occasioned this unceasing restoration of their original numbers, on the very spot where the house was erected for the purpose chiefly of causing their entire disappearance. The looks of the needy applicants, who still, with the most harrassing volubility, arrested the progress of the passenger, were wretched in the extreme; and their garments in general so tattered, that none could feel surprise at the sarcastic remark of Foote, who was accustomed to say "that, till he went to Ireland, he used to wonder what the English beggars did with their cast-off rags; but, upon his arrival in Dublin, he immediately perceived that they were sent over to the Irish beggars."*

The establishment consists of lodging rooms, dining-halls, work-shops, a warehouse for the sale (at a cheap rate) of articles wrought by the inmates; the Hardwicke Medical Hospital, detached from the main building; and an extensive edifice, formerly a nunnery, situated in

* A considerable alteration for the better has, however, recently taken place in regard to the *number*, though not in the appearance, of the street applicants for charity; they are now less frequently troublesome in this city perhaps than in London.

the same street, fitted up in 1810 for the reception of surgical patients. The Richmond Lunatic Asylum,* completed in 1815 at an expense of £50,000, may also be considered as attached to the House of Industry, being under the direction of its governors; as well as the Bedford Asylum, for industrious children, who are employed in weaving, spinning, &c.; and, when of a proper age, are apprenticed to various trades. Penitentiaries, for the reform of young criminals of the male sex, and for adult female convicts, both situated in Smithfield, are likewise superintended by the governors of this institution, which receives boys from the former, when their good conduct entitles them to such lenity. A large building, which presents a front of 700 feet to Grange-Gorman-lane, contiguous to the House of Industry, is nearly completed, and will be called the Dublin

* The "directions" suspended in the several corridors of this building, "to be strictly observed by the domestics of the institution," are particularly worthy of notice, as they evince a mild and benevolent spirit, strongly contrasting with the brutal rigours still too generally adopted in hospitals for lunatics: they are as follows. "To allow every patient all the latitude of personal liberty, consistent with safety.—To proportion the degree of coercion to the obvious necessity of the case.—To use mildness of manner, or firmness, as occasion may require.—Every cause of irritation, real or imaginary, is to be carefully avoided.—The requests of the patients, however extravagant, are to be taken graciously into consideration, and withheld under some plausible pretext, or postponed to a more convenient opportunity.—*All violence or ill treatment of the patients is strictly prohibited, under any provocation, and shall be punished in the most exemplary manner.*—The mild acts of conciliation are to be the constant practice in this hospital.—These laws are of fundamental importance, and essential to the successful management of this institution." The highly interesting Report of the Select Committee for the Lunatic Poor of Ireland (made to the House of Commons in 1817) proposes "that four or five distinct asylums, similar to the Richmond, should be erected in different parts of Ireland; and earnestly recommends an entire conformity to the system laid down and acted on here *with signal success*, having no doubt that the restoration of patients in this malady depends more on the adoption of a regular system of *moral* treatment than casual medical prescription."

Penitentiary: it will in a great measure supersede the use of the institutions in Smithfield just mentioned. Its intention is to afford an opportunity of reformation to felons sentenced to Botany Bay; and such criminals as are found incorrigible to the means here to be adopted for reclaiming them, will ultimately receive the punishment at first awarded. The edifice is constructed with a view to "Howard's plan of solitary confinement, with a gradual progress to society, as the convict becomes reclaimed:" he "passes from a solitary cell to an apartment containing 10 or more persons of his own rank of moral improvement, with whom he associates, entirely separate from the rest of the buildings; from which he is advanced to large work-shops, and less restraint, as his conduct merits. The cells are in the rear, and the shops in the more cheerful part of the edifice."*

These are the only public buildings, of any consequence, in the parish of St. Paul: its inhabitants in general are tradespeople, or legal gentlemen who reside here on account of its vicinity to the Four Courts.

The parish of St. Michan, to which we next arrive by pursuing the line of Brunswick-street to the eastward, contained not less than 20,563 inhabitants, and 1488 houses, in 1814. Both the streets and their occupants, in this parish, offer an infinite diversity of appearance; the latter including every class, from that of the poorest mechanic to that of the eminent professional man and the merchant, the former rising by every gradation of respectability from the obscure lane and filthy alley. Our course lying across Church-street, we shall here notice the edifice for sacred worship, situated nearer to its southern end; it is an antique venerable-looking structure, the largest in Dublin, furnished with a square tower. The vaults beneath it possess the remarkable quality of resisting to a great degree the progress of corruption in the corpses interred within them; a quality

* Whitelaw and Walsh's History, vol. II.

originating, it is supposed, in some peculiarity of the soil. The celebrated Doctor Charles Lucas, whose statue so well deserves its honourable situation in the Royal Exchange, lies buried in its church-yard; the inscription on his unadorned tomb-stone concludes with the following lines:

Lucas! Hibernia's friend, her joy and pride,
Her powerful bulwark, and her skilful guide,
Firm in the senate, steady to his trust,
Unmoved by fear, and *obstinately just*.

Charles Lucas, born 26 of September 1713,
Died November 4th 1771.

Still proceeding eastward, we reach the Linen Hall, a spacious building, the principal approach to which is by the street of its name: it is intended for the reception (in its spacious stores) of the linen cloths sent to Dublin for sale; and contains a coffee-room for factors and traders, and a board-room, for the use of the trustees, by whom the trade throughout the country is regulated, although the institution is merely local, being upon the same plan as the Linen Hall at Belfast. "It is evident," says Mr. Walsh,* that linen made part of the dress of the ancient Irish, from the earliest account of their costume, as described in the *Islandic Chronicle* of A. D. 1129; and so great was their predilection for this fabric, that sumptuary laws were enacted by Henry VIII. to restrain its use. By these laws a shirt or smock was ordered to contain no more than *seven* yards of linen cloth: prior thereto the shirt ordinarily contained *thirty* yards. It was died yellow, but not with saffron, as Moryson, Spencer, and Camden relate," but—"the yellow dye for this purpose was really obtained from the *Buidhmor*, or great yellow wild woad, a plant that grew abundantly in all the moist soils of the country, and is used for dyeing yellow at this day.

"It was the great but unfortunate Earl of Strafford, who must be considered as the real founder of the linen manufacture, which was commenced in his lieutenancy

* History, vol. II. p. 965.

in 1642. He found the soil well adapted for the growth of flax, and the Irish women already expert spinners; and so confident was he of his ultimate success, that he embarked no less than £30,000 of his private fortune, a prodigious sum at that time, in the undertaking. After a few years it justified the sagacity of Lord Strafford, by becoming the staple manufacture of the country."

At the back of the Linen Hall, on a patch of ground consisting of about three acres, an edifice is erecting, to be called King's Inn Temple, intended to form the Irish Inns of Court; it will comprise a hall, library, and chambers for the lawyers, who, since the demolition of the King's Inn, for the purpose of erecting the Four Courts upon their site, have been without these appropriate accommodations. To the latter circumstance Mr. Wakefield attaches much importance in his observations on the character of the Irish bar.* "There is a society," he observes, "with an establishment called King's Inns, where students of the law are admitted to the bar; but there are no chambers for transacting business, as in London. Barristers therefore live in all parts of the city, and, during every stage of their profession, mix with society at large, and participate in the general feelings of the great mass of the people. They do not confine themselves to one court, as is the case in London, but plead occasionally in all. Those who have had an opportunity of witnessing the severe duties of an eminent barrister in London, know, that from the multiplicity of his business, he is closely confined to his chambers, and secluded from general society; of course little leisure is afforded him for acquiring a knowledge of mankind or manners; but in this respect the Irish barrister has the advantage—he is in consequence a more agreeable companion in private life." Indeed, gentlemen of the legal profession in Dublin are greatly distinguished for their convivial

* Account of Ireland, vol. II. p. 341.

and social talents: their eloquence is also very generally admired, though it usually is more witty than profound—has more of the flowers of oratory, than the precision of close and consecutive argument. Congenial with this peculiar style of eloquence is the habit of punning, so prevalent in the Irish courts of law, that the pun, with its accompanying laugh from the auditors, occasions perpetual suspensions of the business in hand, and gives an air of levity to these assemblies as indecorous as it is striking to an English spectator. Even the judges themselves, and that even on the most solemn trials, are not exempt from the universal rage for exhibitions of this degrading kind;* and the absence of the gown and wig,† (however trifling these appendages of legal solemnity may be considered in themselves,) it has been justly observed, contributes much to divest the courts of that gravity of appearance observable in England. “Connected with the courts, and who make their constant or occasional residence in Dublin, are 45 benchers, 950 barristers of whom 25 are advocates in the ecclesiastical courts, 2000 attornies, 12 proctors in the ecclesiastical, and eight in the admiralty courts, and 50 public notaries.” The moral characters of these gentlemen are in general irreproachable, their manners fascinating, their conduct in private life amiable and exemplary. The patriotism of the bar, it is true, has been called in question; and when we hear, that in their deliberations

* The following may serve as a specimen. In the year 1798, a judge, who was notorious for his severity to all the prisoners tried, and for his gross partiality, had an unfortunate wretch brought before him, (for life or death,) who, in consequence of some accident, had his jaw-bone much enlarged on one side. The judge, ambitious of sporting his wit, could not omit this opportunity, and remarked to the prisoner’s counsel, that his “client would have made an excellent lawyer, as he had so much jaw.” “I do not know,” replied the equally facetious barrister, “whether he would have made a good lawyer, but I am sure he would have made a bad judge, for his jaw is all on one side!”

† At county assizes.

on the act of union, in grand assembly convened for the special purpose, they came to the magnanimous resolution “ that the annihilation of the parliament of Ireland *would be an innovation,*” we must confess that grounds appear to have existed for the charge. As to the union itself, though, notwithstanding the venal means of its accomplishment,* we have little doubt of its ultimately-beneficial results to the whole country; yet we should have observed with satisfaction such gentlemen as were of a directly contrary opinion, expressing their sentiments, upon so momentous an occasion, with somewhat more of their accustomed energy.

A description of the intermediate streets, extending southward from the Linen Hall to the water-side, will be unnecessary: we shall therefore briefly mention, that Newgate, with the Sessions House attached, and the Sheriffs’ Prison for debtors, occur in this direction, being situated in Green-street. They are both, though recently erected, small, inconvenient, defective as to their intended purposes, and, notwithstanding some degree of amelioration was effected by the visit of the parliamentary commissioners in 1808, still disgustingly filthy, and the practices of their inmates (of Newgate, of course, more particularly) wretchedly depraved. In the latter prison crimes of the most horrid complexion were formerly committed almost with impunity, and exactions disgraceful to humanity made by the gaoler and turnkeys upon the friends of such unhappy malefactors as perished on the scaffold.† Such abuses will not in future, we trust, in any times or circumstances, be found prac-

* These means were no secret to the late members of the Irish parliament in general, who, it is pretty well known, did not *lose* by their concurrence with the measure.

† It was usual to detain the bodies after execution, until an exorbitant demand for their possession by relatives, &c. was complied with: and, during the period of the rebellion, as upon good authority we have heard, the head of a misled but highly-gifted young man was thus withheld from his friends, until £50 had been paid for its relinquishment!

ticable; but, without a complete re-edification of the building, in a situation less confined, and upon a plan superior both in extent and design to that of the present edifice, filth and disorder, it is to be feared, must prevail in a degree, in spite of the most strenuous efforts to prevent them.

The magnificent pile of the Four Courts, with the offices attached, is situated on the Inns' Quay; it is an object of such architectural interest, that its particular description cannot be unacceptable, and this it is impossible to give in more appropriate language than that of Mr. Malton.

The whole edifice of the Law Courts, and the law offices together, form an oblong rectangle of 440 feet in front, to the river, and 170 feet deep, to the rear. The centre pile, 140 feet square, divides off the law offices, and forms two court-yards—one to the east, the other to the west; which courts are shut out from the street by handsome screen walls, perforated by arches. The middle structure contains the four courts of judicature of the Chancery, King's Bench, Exchequer, and Common Pleas, with all requisite conveniences for the proper discharge of the various business transacted. On the pediment, over the portico, stands the statue of Moses: on the one side is Justice, and Mercy on the other. On the corners of the building, over the coupled pilasters, are the statues of Wisdom and Authority, in the attitude of sitting.

From the street is an ascent of five steps to the portico, with the great door of entrance in the centre of a semi-circular recess, conducting through an oblong vestibule into the great hall under the dome, into which is a descent of three steps. To have a clear conception of the disposition of the various apartments of the inside, as they are arranged around the circular hall, it is necessary first to conceive the plan well; which may be distinctly delineated in the imagination, by figuring a circle

of 64 feet diameter, inscribed in the centre of a square of 140 feet, with the four courts radiating from the circle to the angles of the square.

In each of the openings from the circular hall stand four columns, two in depth on each side. In the piers, between the openings, are niches and sunk pannels. The columns around the hall are of the Corinthian order, 25 feet high, fluted the upper two-thirds of the shaft, and stand upon a sub-plinth that contains the steps of ascent into the courts and avenues. The entablature is continued around unbroken, above which is an attic pedestal, having in the dado eight sunk pannels corresponding with, and over the eight openings below between the columns. In the pannels, over the entrances into the courts, are historical pieces in bas-relief, representing four great events in the British history: 1. William the Conqueror establishing courts of justice, feudal and Norman laws, doomsday-book, curfew; 2. King John signing Magna Charta before the barons; 3. Henry the Second, on landing in Ireland, receiving the Irish chieftains—grants the first charter to Dublin; 4. James the First abolishing the Brehon laws, tanistry, gavelkind, gossipred, and publishes the act of oblivion. From the attic springs a dome nearly hemispherical, having a large circular opening in the centre, around which is a gallery. The hall is lighted by eight windows in the dome, over the eight pannels of the attic; between these are eight colossal statues in alto-relievo, standing on consoles, emblematical of liberty, justice, wisdom, law, prudence, mercy, eloquence, and punishment. A rich frieze of foliage takes its rise over the heads of the statues, and extends around the dome. In the frieze, over each window, are medallions of eight eminent ancient lawgivers, viz. Moses, Lycurgus, Solon, Numa, Confucius, Alfred, Mango-Capac, and Ollamh-Fodhla. The rest of the dome is enriched with mosaic work, to the opening in the centre.

“ The interior of the hall is so extremely beautiful, that no verbal description can convey an adequate idea of it: ’tis simple! ’tis elegant! ’tis magnificent! As the four courts are similar, and of equal dimensions, the description of one will answer for all.—On rising three steps, and removing a curtain immediately at the back of the columns, the court is entered; a wainscot screen crosses it, having a door at each extreme for admission of the lawyers, counsel, and witnesses. On each side is a gallery—one for the jury, the other for the sheriff and other officers. The judges sit in a cove formed by a niche in the end of the court, with semi-elliptical sounding-boards over their heads. Each court is lighted by six windows, three on each side, above the cornice, which is on a level with the cornice over the columns of the hall. Level with the galleries are apartments for the jurors to retire.”

The building was begun by Mr. Thomas Cooley, architect, in 1776; but he lived only to complete the western wing: it was finished by Mr. James Gandon. It was the intention of Mr. Cooley to have kept back the middle part, containing the courts, and, by only gently breaking the range, to have preserved one entire court-yard of the space now divided into two, and the ground covered by the centre pile. It is to be lamented that the idea was departed from, as, besides other disadvantages, it prevents so magnificent a structure from being seen to advantage.* The foundation-stone of the part containing the courts, was laid by Charles, Duke of Rutland, then Lord-Lieutenant, on the 13th of March, 1786: and the whole expense of that, and the subsequent buildings, has been estimated at £150,000.

* Sir Richard Hoare has observed, that “ some objections may be made to the architecture of this building, particularly to the dome encompassed by columns, (external view,) which, owing to the base rising so high above the rest of the building, has a very bad effect; its proportions as a *detached* temple would be more just: this defect

Previously to the erection of this stately edifice, the four law courts were held under one roof in Christ-church-lane: prior to which they were separate and ambulatory, being held, as convenience and safety made it expedient,* either at Carlow, Drogheda, or in the Castle of Dublin. The foundation of the new and handsome bridge, in the vicinity of the Courts, and in a line with Church-street, was laid in 1816, by Lord Whitworth, from whom its appellation, Whitworth Bridge, is derived.

Ormond Market, esteemed by the citizens one of the first in Europe, occurs in this parish: it was erected in 1682,

From the southern end of Linen-hall-street, our walk, still eastward, lies through Bolton-street (where it assumes a northerly direction) to Dorset-street, near the termination of which is Bethesda Chapel, in the parish of St. Mary, a very fashionable place of worship, erected by Wm. Smyth, esq., a private citizen, at his sole expense. To this he afterwards annexed a Female Orphan Asylum, and a Penitentiary for the reception and the employment of women leaving the Lock Hospital: the inmates of both these excellent institutions constantly attend the chapel. Perhaps it is to the latter circumstance that Bethesda Chapel is chiefly indebted for its popularity, as the union of voices (from opposite

is very visible from the opposite side of the river—which is the best situation to view the general effect of the building—where the over-massive proportions of the dome and colonnade tend to lessen and injure those of the beautiful portico beneath, to which they should be only a *second*.”

* Collet's Inns (in George's-lane, without the walls, now Great George's-street) was in ancient times the seat of the King's Exchequer; but “once the Baron sitting on it solemnly and carelessly, the Irish laid hold of the opportunity, rushed in, surprised the unarmed multitude, slew all that fell under their power, and ransacked the king's treasure; after which mishap the Exchequer was removed from thence into a place of greater security.” *Stanihurst, p. 23.*—The spot long after retained the name of the Exchequer; and Exchequer-street, which is contiguous, probably was called after it.

sides of the edifice) of the sister penitents and orphans is strikingly impressive and affecting.

Turning the angle of Frederick-street, Cavendish-row, forming the eastern side of Rutland-square, occurs in a right line. The northern side is occupied by Palace-row, in the centre of which stands Charlemont House, an elegant and regular edifice of Arklow stone, which by some judges has been considered superior to the Portland. It overlooks the Rotunda Gardens, which, with the building so called, are open to the public for the benefit of the Lying-in Hospital; the latter a magnificent erection, whose back-front, extending to Granby-row, completes, in conjunction with it, the circumference of the square, the gardens themselves forming the interior area. These gardens, Mr. Malton remarks, "for the capability so small a spot could afford, are beautiful in a very eminent degree, and contain a variety that is astonishing; in a hollow below a terrace on the north side is an excellent bowling-green, and all around is thickly planted with well-grown elm, disposed in a variety of walks that are really romantic, and afford a delightful recreation to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. They were originally enclosed by a high wall, which was taken down in 1784, and a handsome iron railing, on a dwarf wall, put in its stead: this was done in the administration of his Grace, Charles, Duke of Rutland, when they were called after him Rutland-square.

"The Rotunda, and new rooms adjoining, now form a very distinguishing feature in the city: this noble circular room was built in the year 1757: the new rooms form a pleasing range of building, 101 feet in extent, parallel with Cavendish-row, the east side of the square. The inside of the Rotunda has a very pleasing appearance; it is 80 feet in diameter, and 40 feet in height, without any middle support: it is decorated around with pilasters of the Corinthian order, 18 in number, and

25 feet high, standing on pedestals; above which, between the pilasters, are enriched windows, which appear on the outside: the ceiling is flat, with large and bold compartments: the ornaments of the whole are now somewhat antiquated, but it has nevertheless a grand effect on public nights, when illumined, and filled with the native beauty and fashion of the country.

“ The new rooms are superb; they consist of two principal apartments, one over the other, 86 feet long by 40 broad; the lower is the ball, the other the supper and tea room. There is a smaller ball-room on the ground floor, which also serves as a room for refreshments when the larger is occupied. The upper room is very elegantly enriched; between pilasters against the walls are trophies, where shields of cut-glass and other glittering ornaments have a very brilliant appearance. There are several lesser rooms for cards and refreshments. Besides weekly concerts in the winter season, there are here held subscription balls, supported by the first nobility and gentry; card assemblies; and, every season, a masquerade or two. The entertainments of the Rotunda during the winter form the most elegant amusements of Dublin; it is opened every Sunday evening in summer, for the purpose of a promenade, when tea and coffee are given in the superb upper room. The receipts of the whole, after defraying the incidental expenses, go to the support of the hospital.”*

The Rotunda Gardens were originally planned and laid out by Dr. Bartholomew Mosse, for the express

* The Sunday promenades, at the instance of the Society for Discountenancing Vice, have been discontinued; and the concerts and other sources of emolument to the hospital having declined in the public favour, application was made to parliament, in 1803, for its assistance, and the subsequent grants in consequence have amounted to £23,000. The gardens are now open to promenaders on the evenings of week days, with the attractions of a band of music and illuminations. Admittance is obtained at the small charge of a five-penny coin of the country.

purpose of providing a fund, to arise out of their public exhibition, for the maintenance of the noble hospital whose erection he contemplated. He had previously opened an Asylum for poor pregnant women, in George's-lane, (the first attempted in the empire,) but finding it much too small for the reception of the numerous applicants, conceived the idea of the princely Lying-in Hospital of Dublin. The benevolent man had already risked his whole fortune in the completion of the garden; but, undeterred by this obstacle, he raised money for his favourite purpose by lottery-schemes, and on his own credit; and commenced the building in 1751. The entire failure of one of his schemes in 1754, alone induced him to petition parliament in behalf of his laudable undertaking, when the sum of £12,000 was liberally granted him to finish the edifice, with the addition of £2000 as a personal remuneration. In 1756, the doctor obtained the charter of incorporation; in 1757, the structure was opened for the reception of patients; and, after the lapse of two years only, having much impaired his health by too unremitting attention to his grand object, the philanthropic founder was no more. His bust in the interior surmounts a pedestal, on which appears the pithy and expressive inscription following:

Bart. Mosse, M. D.

Miseris Solamen

Instituit.

MDGCLVII.

The principal front of the building is to Great-Britain-street: its centre, decorated with four Doric columns on a rustic basement, and supporting a beautiful entablature and pediment, the whole crowned with a domed steeple; has a truly elegant effect: ornamental colonnades communicate with the wings, which have also Doric columns, and vases at top—that to the east serving as an entrance to the Rotunda and new rooms, which buildings are connected with the hospital. During the

troubles of 1798, and for three years subsequently, the Rotunda and rooms attached were held in requisition by government as barracks.

In Great-Britain-street, on the same side as the Lying-in Hospital, is Simpson's Hospital (founded by a merchant of that name) for patients of previous respectability and irreproachable character, afflicted with the gout or blindness; with the latter of which the philanthropist was himself threatened, and with the former severely visited. Mr. Walsh's mention of this institution contains a detail of some circumstances extremely pleasing. "A plain but decent suit of clothes is provided; their food is of the very best kind; their rooms neat; and if more than one individual occupy the same apartment, it only promotes that social gratification which the blind and the lame must feel in mutual society and assistance. It is a singular and interesting spectacle to see this interchange of offices, each making use of that organ of his neighbour of which he is himself deprived. In this way, the patients who are deprived of the use of their limbs by the severity of the gout, are supported by their blind friends, whose motions they direct and guide; while, in return, a lame patient is frequently seen surrounded by a group of the blind, to whom he reads a newspaper which is supplied for that purpose, or some book of entertainment or instruction. In the spring and summer, the gay sound of the flute and violin is often heard from the benches of their little garden, and the whole institution has an air of cheerful content. The patients are freely allowed to walk abroad; and wherever they are met in the streets, and recognized by their dress, they never fail to excite, in no small degree, the interest and good-will of the passengers, who are glad to accord to their infirmities any assistance in their power; a feeling which at once evinces a general respect for the character and circumstances of the men, and for the excellent institution which supports and protects

them." The Richmond National Institution for the support and employment of the youthful blind, as Simpson's is for the maintenance of the aged thus afflicted, was formerly situated in the same street; but, from want of room, the premises have been sold to the governors of the Lying-in Hospital, and others more convenient taken in Sackville-street, where the institution prospers. Instruction is here afforded to the pupils in the arts of basket-making, netting, weaving, &c.; and their proficiency, we understand, has been rapid and surprising. The various articles manufactured are sold for the benefit of the charity.

The front of Simpson's Hospital is to the entrance of Jervis-street, in proceeding by which we pass by the Charitable Infirmary, an institution founded in 1728; which, besides supplying medical and surgical assistance, with all other necessaries, to the sick and wounded poor, is distinguished by the considerate provision of two distinct wards, where advice, medicine, and beds only, are afforded to a rather more reputable class, who, notwithstanding, might experience considerable difficulties in meeting the extraordinary expenses entailed during a period of sickness, by the charges of the usual medical attendants. To the other advantages of this venerable charity was added, the institution of medical and surgical lectures, in 1808: the number of pupils who attend them exceeds 70. In 1792, the then governors obtained the act of incorporation, by which they were styled the Guardians and Governors of the Charitable Infirmary, Dublin.

Mary-street, which intersects Jervis-street at right angles, derives a degree of importance from its possessing Apothecaries' Hall and the parochial church; the former an establishment at which (as at the institution of the same name in London) drugs and chemicals may be procured pure and unadulterated;* the latter a plain.

* This establishment likewise regulates the profession of phar-

stone edifice, with an addition to Dublin of one more unfinished steeple.

In 1814 this parish contained 1670 houses, with a population of 19,268 inhabitants: many of the latter are conspicuous for rank and affluence; but all those subordinate classes are here also to be found, which in an extensive city form the connecting links of the great chain of society. An elegant iron bridge, of one elliptical arch, at Lower Ormond Quay, connects the opposite parishes of St. Mary and St. Andrew: it is 140 feet long by 12 wide, being intended for foot-passengers only.

If the tourist have adopted our route as far as St. Mary's Church, he has now no alternative (owing to the scattered positions of the objects described in the preceding parish) than to retrace his steps from Jervis-street to the Lying-in Hospital, in order, by Cavendish-row and Frederick-street already mentioned, to obtain a sight of the parochial church of St. George, the approach to which is by Beresford-street.

This elegant modern edifice thus approached, the elevated steeple, appearing directly in front, is seen to the greatest advantage; it is certainly highly creditable to the taste and talents of the architect, Mr. Francis Johnston. Being divested of the usual appendage, a church-yard, and standing in the midst of a tolerably spacious area, with a handsome street and crescent in front, and well-built surrounding houses, its insulated appearance contributes much to its striking effect. The portico in front consists of Ionic pillars, on which are raised an entablature and angular pediment: very conspicuous on the frieze is a Greek inscription, signifying 'Glory to God in the highest!' The highly graceful steeple and spire rise over the portico; the cross surmounting the latter is 200 feet from the ground. The

macy in Ireland, having the necessary powers vested in it by its charter: its medicines are prepared under the inspection of a sworn court of directors annually appointed.

whole is constructed of hewn stone, and the internal decorations are in a style of corresponding elegance.

The spectator placed in front of St. George's Church is immediately impressed with the idea of his arrival in a quarter of the city which taste and opulence have united to embellish: the streets in the vicinity are all built on a regular plan; the houses are lofty and elegant; and neither hotels, shops, nor warehouses, obtruding upon the scene, the whole possesses an air of dignified retirement—the tranquillity of ease, affluence, and leisure. The inhabitants of this parish are indeed almost exclusively of the upper ranks: their number in 1814 was 5100, occupying 590 houses. St. George's Dispensary Fever Hospital, in Lower Dorset-street, is at a short distance from the church; an invaluable establishment for the poor of the whole city north of the Liffey.

By Temple-street and Gardiner's-place we reach Mountjoy-square, recently completed, and a distinguished ornament to this fashionable part of Dublin: it is regular, elegant, and sufficiently spacious, though inferior in the latter respect to Merrion-square, south of the river. It possesses, also, the additional recommendation of an aspect in which a peculiar neatness appears the result of tasteful simplicity. The upper windows of the houses command, from their elevated site, an extensive prospect of Dublin Bay, the Hill of Howth, the Wicklow Mountains, and surrounding country. In Great Charles-street, diverging from the square, is an elegant chapel, fronted with hewn stone, lately erected for a congregation of Wesleyan methodists, who have three other places of worship in this city.

By Rutland-street, facing the Wesleyan chapel, we are led to Summer-hill, where we may inspect the Farming-Society's Repository: "the high reputation and celebrity" of this society, as Mr. Curwen, an experienced agriculturist, very justly remarks, "are the best evidence of the benefits derived to the country from its

labours.”—“The establishment at Summer-hill,” continues this gentleman, “is on an extensive plan for all kinds of (agricultural) improvements; among which is a manufactory for the most approved species of farming implements, which are here sold at reduced prices to practical persons. The society has an experimental farm, about five miles from Dublin, at Ballynasloe, where it has a handsome house, with a most commodious yard for the reception of prize cattle. The meetings in the spring are held in Dublin—in the autumn at Ballynasloe.

“The premiums annually distributed by the society are very numerous; and aid from its funds is also extended to the different provincial societies; by which means, though much distributed, each becomes identified with the agriculture of the whole country, while the parent establishment is enabled to direct its attention to those practices which are of the most important consideration.

“The Farming Society has an allowance from the state of £5000 a year, and an annual subscription is paid by the members in aid of the funds.—The Right Hon. John Foster is the president; Mr. Wynne, and many other experienced and spirited agriculturists, form the committee.—As a point of union, connecting the landed gentry with men of science and practical knowledge, it cannot fail of producing important results, and extensively diffusing a spirit for improvement.”

Gardiner’s-street and the western portion of Gloucester-street conduct from Summer-hill to the parochial church of St. Thomas, exhibiting only an unfinished front in the approach by this avenue. It is situated in Marlborough-street; where is also commenced the metropolitan Roman-catholic chapel, whose front, consisting of a noble Doric portico, with its entablature and pediment, is to be in imitation of the temple of Theseus at Athens. The columns of the portico will be six in number, fluted, and without bases, standing on a flight

of steps, projecting 10 feet from the three principal entrances; and figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity, will surmount the pediment. The side-fronts are to have each central recesses for entrances, faced by colonnades, and crowned by emblematic figures like the portico, while the interior will possess an air of grandeur correspondent with the external decorations. The cost of this structure, defrayed by subscriptions from the Roman-catholic body in Dublin, is estimated at £50,000. The Roman-catholics have nine other chapels in different parts of the city, besides 13 friaries and nunneries, with 32 male and female schools, educating (frequently supporting) in the aggregate 5000 scholars, at an annual expense of about £6000. Dublin is divided by their clergy into nine parochial districts, by the respective inhabitants of which one or more of these schools are maintained; every protestant parish has likewise its school: and it were well if the spirit of rivalry between the two great religious classes were confined to these humble but useful works of charity, in which they are spiritedly emulated by the various dissenting congregations.—Waterford House is in Marlborough-street, remarkable as the first private edifice (of modern date) in Dublin entirely built with stone.

At the end of Marlborough-street, Lower Abbey-street runs nearly east and west: in the latter is the Dorset Institution, opened by the Duchess of Dorset in 1816, for the employment of poor female children in manufacturing straw-plait, and for the relief of industrious but distressed females in general, throughout the metropolis.—“ Another department receives and gives out work to poor room-keepers, unknown to the persons who send it. This procures employment for many people who could not otherwise obtain it, as the public institution is pledged for the safety, neatness, and punctual return of the work. *Thus also many respectable females are enabled to maintain themselves, whose reduced*

*circumstances require such means of support, but whose pride would prevent their publicly seeking it.**

Traversing Lower Abbey-street to the eastward, the crescent of buildings called Beresford-place is before us, extending in rear of one other of those magnificent piles, for which Dublin is so justly famed. This is the Custom-house, which, Sir Richard Hoare observes, “visited from the opposite side of the river, has a very striking effect; and this fine building, combined with the numerous shipping immediately adjoining it, reminded me strongly of those subjects which the painter Carnaletti selected at Venice for his pencil.”

“The Custom-house,” says Mr. Malton, “is the most costly, and, excepting the Exchange, the most highly decorated building in the city: whether taken in the general effect, or minutely considered, its appearance is magnificent, and, on the whole, it is acknowledged the most sumptuous edifice, erected for such a use, in Europe.

“The whole building is insulated, exhibiting four decorated fronts to view, answering almost directly to the four cardinal points of the compass. The form is an oblong quadrangle, 375 feet long by 205 feet deep. Within are two courts, east and west, divided from each other by the centre pile, which, 131 feet broad, extends the whole depth, from north to south. It is jointly the

* Whitelaw and Walsh’s History, vol. II. p. 798.—This, and similar traits of delicate consideration, are what so peculiarly distinguish many of the charitable institutions in Dublin. In England, little allowance is generally made by the more opulent, for the feelings of the distressed female, who, having seen better days, conceives an almost unconquerable repugnance to solicit or receive needle-work, or other employment, from the hands of those to whom she is *personally known*, and more particularly, perhaps, from such as the ties of relationship or former intimacy had accustomed her to consider but as her natural equals. In Dublin, by means of the Dorset Institution, she readily procures the employment her necessities may require, without the violation of that privacy, which the honourable, though causeless shame attaching to unmerited want, has, in her views, rendered sacred.

house of customs and of excise; and, besides all the offices appropriated thereto, contains apartments or dwelling-houses for the chief commissioners. The north and south are the principal fronts; the east and west, excepting only the returns of the wings at the extremities, are large warehouses. The whole is decorated with columns and ornaments of the Doric order, with some innovations, in a bold and good style.

“Over the portico, in the centre, is a handsome cupola, on exactly the same plan as those beautiful cupolas at Greenwich Hospital, near London; but of somewhat less dimensions, and differing a little in the decorations of the elevation; the dome, 26 feet in diameter, is quite plain, covered with copper; on the top of which, on a circular pedestal, is a statue of Hope,* resting on her anchor, 12 feet high, and 113 feet from the ground. On the attic story, over the four pillars of the portico, are statues of Neptune, Plenty, Industry, and Mercury. In the tympan of the pediment, in alto-relievo, is represented the friendly union of Britannia with Hibernia, with the good consequences resulting to Ireland; they are placed in the centre, on a car of shell, embracing each other. Neptune, on the right, is driving away, with his trident, Famine and Despair; on the left are sea gods, sounding their shells; and a fleet of ships at a distance, approaching full sail, to which Hibernia is pointing. The frieze of the entablature, over the portico, is ornamented with oxes’ heads entire, with festoons from one to the other, supposed to be of their hides. On the key-stones of the arches of entrance, and others corresponding, in all 16, are allegorically represented as many rivers of Ireland, under male heads, excepting one, a female, in the centre of the north front, representing the river Anna Liffey; all decorated with

* This statue, it must, we think, be granted by all impartial observers, is preposterously large in proportion to the dome which sustains it.

what is peculiar to them, or their banks, and executed in a very bold, superior style.

“ The north front differs considerably from the south; it has a portico of four columns, in the centre, but no pediment. On the entablature, over each column, are statues, representing Europe, Asia, Africa, and America; in the general effect it is not at all comparable with the south, but is seen to great advantage from the noble semicircular area before it. The courts are plain; the whole, with great part of the north, and both the east and west fronts, are built of native mountain stone; but the whole of the south front, and all the decorative parts of the three others, are of Portland.”

Convenience, as Sir Richard Hoare observes, seems to have been as much consulted in the interior of this edifice, as grandeur of design in the exterior. The *Long Room* (which, by a species of practical bull, was erected 70 feet *square*) is a superb apartment, ornamented with two ranges of Composite columns, supporting an arched ceiling. “ The trial and board rooms, situated on the north front, are also very handsome apartments; particularly the former, being adorned with columns, and otherwise much ornamented. To these, and other public offices in the north range, is access by a very elegant staircase, much admired for its light appearance and novel construction; the ascent is, on either side, to a half-landing, by steps fixed in the wall in the ordinary manner; but from the middle of the half-landing rises the return-flight to the landing place, appearing between the landings without support, with a railing on each side. The steps of this flight are sustained by their being very thick, and laid on each other in arch joints, forming a semi-elliptical arch, from one landing to the other.”

In addition to a wet dock, contiguous to the Custom-house, on its eastern side, which covers two acres (English) nearly, with capacious and substantial warehouses attached, two new docks, with stores, are in progress; but

these, like many other extensive undertakings in Ireland, have been very appropriately styled “precautionary accommodations;” the trade of Dublin by no means, at the present moment, requiring them.—Near the Custom-house, on the North Strand, the Sunday and Daily School for the parishes of St. Mary, St. George, and St. Thomas, is open to all religious persuasions, and receives 340 children of both sexes, of whom 100 are annually clothed.

From the Custom-house, a westward direction along the quay brings us to the foot of Carlisle Bridge, previously noticed, leading from which is the most spacious and regular street in Dublin, called Sackville-street. The new Post-office, the foundation of which was laid by Lord Whitworth in 1815, is situated on the west side of this street, and adds much to its general appearance of magnificence. It is a grand edifice, mainly constructed of mountain stone; but the noble portico, 80 feet in length, which ornaments the centre, is of Portland. Statues of Hibernia, Mercury, and Fidelity, surmount the pediment, whose tympanum bears the royal arms in alto-relievo: the whole building is 223 feet long, by 150 deep. The cost was estimated at £50,000.

The Dublin mails are ten in number, and leave the Post-office at eight o'clock every evening, as do the London. The coaches are extremely well constructed, being equal, if not superior, to those on the English establishment. They carry *two* guards each, and have occasionally a trooper or two besides as an escort, in the case of their road lying through disturbed districts: the pannels of such as are considered most liable to be attacked, are of sheet iron or copper.—Precautions all these, which, as they are still continued, speak volumes as to the supposed existing state of the country.

The Nelson Pillar stands centrically in Sackville-street, contiguous to the Post-office. It is, in our opinion, a most unsightly column, and a huge deformity

in the grand area to which it might have been made a conspicuous ornament. It can be reconciled to no order; but this, had it any pretensions to originality or tastefulness of design, might have been forgiven; it is however an almost shapeless mass of native black stone and granite, surmounted with a statue of the hero to whose memory it was erected. Many have remarked, with justice, that its situation also is ill-chosen. On the Hill of Howth, its ponderous proportions would have better harmonized with the scenery surrounding it; there, it would have looked in majesty upon the element which the genius of Nelson commanded; and there it would have afforded the noblest of land-marks to our seamen, at the same time that it stimulated them to yet more heroic ardour in the service of their country.

The Dublin Institution is also in Sackville-street, and consists of a library for perusal on the spot, a collection of books for circulation among the members, a lecture-room, &c. A feature which distinguishes it from the Dublin Library Society, before mentioned, is the want, as was purposely intended, of a room for general conversation; the occasional heat and acrimony of which in the news-room of the sister institution were lamented by many of its members, and the present society formed expressly with a view to avoid them. The Dublin Institution prospers, its members amounting to not less than 600.

Nothing farther deserving of notice occurs in the parish of St. Thomas, with the account of which we close our parochial perambulations: its population, in 1814, enumerated 13,766; its houses, 1680.

EXCURSION VI.

*Through the Environs of Dublin, by the Circular Road;
continued, by Clontarf, to the Peninsula of Howth.*

AS, previously to quitting the shelter afforded, in all weathers, by numerous coffee-houses, confectioners', &c. in every principal street of the metropolis, the tourist may be interested in knowing the characteristics of the climate, and general aspect of the sky, of Dublin, we shall preface the present Excursion with a few brief remarks upon this subject.

The atmosphere of Dublin, in common with that of Ireland in general, is humid to a degree that usually renders an umbrella the first requisite of the stranger on his arrival. The lower parts of the city, lying on a flat plain, great part of which has been reclaimed from the sea, are also subject to fogs, sometimes of extraordinary density; while the elevated streets north of the river are, perhaps, at the same time in the perfect possession of their usual elastic and pure air, wafted by healthful breezes from the ocean or the adjacent mountains. On these occasions, to a person standing at the northern verge of Dublin, a great part of the place appears obliterated by the almost palpable mist; the figure of Nelson on his lofty pillar, and the dome of the Custom-house, alone meeting the eye, and seeming to float upon the surface. Exhalations even of a dangerous nature, suspending all business, and rendering the streets impassable in broad day by their obscurity, have more than once visited the city; when the vapour has been seen bursting from the ground, like steam from a boiling caul-

dron.* But these, besides being extremely rare, are seldom of long continuance, owing to the almost constant current of air, either from east to west, or from west to east, along the acclivity of the mountains, and parallel to the direction of the river. Westerly winds are by far the most frequent in Dublin.

If, however, the density of the atmosphere in this city have become the subject of frequent remark, its peculiar clearness at times is not less deserving of notice; the summits of the mountains in Louth, Down, and Armagh, some of which are 60 English miles' distance, being occasionally distinctly visible from the vicinity. The conical tops of the Welsh mountains, also, are sometimes discernible, even from the low margin of the bay; when, their bases being beneath the horizon, they present the appearance of a cluster of abrupt and lofty islands. But this uncommon atmospheric transparency is almost an unerring indication of the speedy recurrence of rain.

Floods, occasioned by sudden and violent, or by long-continued rains, are not unfrequent, particularly in the low grounds of the Liberty; where, in 1744, the poor were entirely dislodged from their cellars, and the bridges on all the rivers and streams running into the Bay of Dublin carried away by the torrents. In December, 1801, above 36 hours' rain swelled the Liffey to an extraordinary height, inundating the city, and destroying many of the bridges. As a proof of the general mildness of the *frosts*, in comparison with those of London, it has been observed that skating is an amusement

* Mr. Walsh records a remarkable phenomenon of this nature, as having taken place a few years back in Townshend-street and College Green. Here a dense white vapour was observed to issue in flakes and curling wreaths from the pavement: it rose but a few feet above the surface, and then formed small but opaque lakes in different directions: in the vicinity of these, the air was perceptibly colder than in other places, from the absorption of the caloric of the atmosphere.

rarely enjoyed by the citizens; while, on the other hand, the *heat* in summer seldom exceeds 38 degrees of the thermometer. A climate so generally temperate, it might be inferred, must be productive of unusual salubrity in the inhabitants;* and that the contrary is the melancholy fact, among the poorer orders at least, is to be attributed solely to the superabundant population, and to the filth and low living which extreme poverty engenders, and of which disease is but the natural consequence.

Entering the Circular Road by the south-eastern termination of Leeson-street, and commencing our tour of the city in a westerly direction, we speedily reach Porto-Bello; where, on the bank of the Grand Canal, are the extensive barracks for cavalry, covering 27 acres of ground, including two spacious courts, which communicate with each other, through the range of buildings, by a central gate. From these barracks, Mr. Windham Sadler, son to Mr. James Sadler, ascended in a balloon, on the 22nd of July, 1817, and, by bold and judicious management, succeeded in reaching the opposite coast of Anglesea, at the distance of two miles and a half south from Holyhead, in six hours; thus effecting what so many had previously attempted in vain to accomplish. At Porto-Bello there is also an excellent hotel,† and the new basin for supplying the south-eastern parts of the city with water from the Grand Canal. This spacious reservoir was opened in September, 1812, and is laid down with gravelled walks and shrubberies, with a view to render it a public promenade, like the City Basin.

The new House of Correction, a short distance farther

* "There be few sickly persons," says Boate, "and Ireland's healthfulness doth further appear by this particular—that several diseases very common in other countries are here very rare, and partly altogether unknown."—*Chap. 23, sec. 102.*

† Where the canal passage-boats stop, by which travellers, with whom time is not an object, may obtain a very pleasant conveyance, in two days, to Shannon Harbour from Dublin. The distance thus performed is 63 miles.

on our left, is intended as a substitute for the very poor and inadequate building so called in James-street. It is a massive pile, erected at the expense of £28,000, occupying an acre and a half of ground, and has much of the air of that appropriate gloom, which corresponds with the purposes for which it is erected. Before the main body of the edifice is the keeper's lodge, standing in advance like the outworks of a fortress; at its angles are projecting turrets, calculated to command the walls as bastions do the curtains of a fortification; and, when provided with centinels, as is designed, all attempts at escape will be effectually prevented. Over the entrance is a shield of the city arms, three blazing castles, with the motto,

Obedientia Civium Urbis felicitas;

and on the front of the main building, the equally appropriate inscription,

“Cease to do Evil, and learn to do Well.”

Young vagrants, of both sexes, distinctly lodged and classed, will be confined in this building, and employed in various departments of industry. It is intended to contain, if necessary, 400 persons.

Crossing the main cut of the Grand Canal below St. James's parish, (after passing Dolphin's Barn,) and then slightly diverging from our line of road to the right, we enter the suburb distinguished by the name of Kilmainham, but which is in point of fact the county-town, containing the gaol (previously noticed) for the county of Dublin. The latter is a large and well-built erection, on an elevated and commanding site; but a material defect is its construction of lime-stone, in consequence of which the cells, particularly those on the lower story, are often damp in wet weather. It affords every facility for the complete classification of prisoners for debt, for petty felonies, and for crimes of a darker complexion; as well as for the employment of numbers in industrious pursuits

within the walls;—the two grand desiderata in most prisons. Much good is said to have resulted here from the humane and well-known exertions of Mr. Pole.

The Richmond Barracks, (before mentioned,) at Golden Bridge, near this town, consist of two fronts, with extensive courts, connected in a right line by a light and elegant building, 300 yards in length; the latter having a portal in its centre, by which a communication is obtained between two other spacious areas. The portal is crowned with a cupola and spire. These barracks are for infantry, and were erected, as well as the cavalry barracks at Porto-Bello, to supply the place of those temporary accommodations of the same kind, in the city, the use of which has been discontinued. In the vicinity of these buildings, some springs of mineral water were accidentally discovered a few years since; when, in consequence of the miraculous qualities attributed to them, immense crowds were attracted hither. They are still frequented by many classes of the citizens.

Re-entering the Circular Road, the great cemetery for the Dublin poor, called the Hospital Fields, lies on our right; where is a monument, erected, according to tradition, over the Irish king Brian Boromhe, who fell at the battle of Clontarf. From this burial-ground, more particularly, subjects for dissection are said to be nightly procured for the surgeons, with a facility unknown in countries where feelings of reverence for the repose of the dead are stronger than in Ireland. For, “though there is no country,” says Mr. Walsh, “where the sick are attended with more disinterested zeal and affection by their friends, the memory of the deceased cherished with more tender regard, or the souls of the dead prayed for with more fervent devotion; yet there is none where the inanimate body is looked upon with more philosophic indifference. After it is consigned to the earth with the ceremonies of pious respect, it is in general a subject of no farther concern.”—Individual

instances to the contrary, of which we have been informed, are, doubtless, no objections to the general accuracy of this remark.

Near Island Bridge, at which spot we arrive on the south bank of the Liffey, is St. John's Well, greatly resorted to by the lower orders on the eve of its patron saint, for the purpose of drinking the waters, which are supposed to possess efficacy to cure all manner of diseases on that day. Tents are pitched, and many festivities observed on the occasion, in lieu of the old custom of lighting bonfires, (a relic, it is thought, of the pagan fire-worship, or *Baal-tinné*,) which was very properly interdicted by the magistrates of Dublin. But in many country places in Ireland, the bonfire is still religiously continued on this festival, accompanied with several absurd and superstitious ceremonies, such as forcing children and various useful animals through the flames, to preserve them from every possible malady throughout the ensuing year, &c. St. John's Eve was in former ages kept as a high festival throughout the island.*

There is a salmon fishery at Island Bridge, which is

* A more pleasing custom, still observed on St. James's day, is noticed by Mr. Walsh. On this festival, he observes, the "populace repair in great numbers to St. James's church-yard, when they garnish and decorate the graves, being persuaded that prayers are offered up on that day by his Holiness the Pope, for the souls of all those who are there buried. Some of these decorations strongly indicate the affectionate attachment of the Irish to the memory of the dead. They form effigies or images of all the persons who have been buried in the same grave, or represent them by shirts or shifts made of paper, of a size proportioned to the age of the persons. These are laid on or hung round the place where they are buried; and a mother is frequently seen sitting on a grave surrounded by these rude figures of her deceased children, with whom she is holding a communication, to which strong affection, and an ardent imagination, give a reality unknown perhaps elsewhere." Besides these feasts and that of St. Patrick, Holy Eve, or the Eve of All Saints, is also still generally observed in the capital, and throughout Ireland, with many of those superstitious rites so admirably described in Burns's well-known poem of 'Hallow E'en.'

rented for £200 per annum, and which, during the year of 1816, produced 1762 fish, weighing from five to 30 lbs. each. The salmon here taken are in greater esteem among the inhabitants of Dublin, than those caught in the other Irish rivers, so universally prolific of the species; but this arises, probably, from their superior freshness alone, those brought from the Barrow, Suir, and Shannon, on the roofs* of the mail-coaches from Ross, Waterford, Limerick, and Cork, being considered by many to excel them in quality.

Phoenix Park presents itself to our notice, immediately on crossing the Liffey, by Sarah Bridge, which has been described. The stone wall now bounding the park on this side of the river, very considerably circumscribes its ancient line of extent; which not only included the high road on the northern, but a large tract on the southern bank, in which were comprehended the site and demesne of the Royal Hospital of Kilmainham. Forming part of the lands anciently attached to the priory at that place, the Phoenix manor was surrendered to Henry VIII. at the Dissolution; and, though re-granted to the priory by Queen Mary, reverted to the crown shortly after her death, when Elizabeth, her successor, formed the idea of making it a deer-park; a design not fully executed, however, till the reign of Charles II. The celebrated Lord Chesterfield, during his lieutenancy, may be said to have put the finishing hand to the grounds, though various public buildings, and other improvements, have been subsequently added.

The park is now entered by a grand gate, lately erected, from the city; and is still not less than seven English miles in circumference. From its extent, it

* In large boxes, capable of containing 2 cwt. of fish each, called Imperials. These are lined with lead, that the salmon may be kept cool, and the sides formed with wire, to permit a constant ingress of air. By them, the fish are conveyed to Dublin from 20 to 30 hours after they are taken out of the water.

naturally comprises a great variety of surface and of scenery: and, indeed, in these respects, it will not suffer by comparison with any other in Europe. It presents the most agreeable undulations of hill and dale, sufficiently diversified with wood and water; and its prospects from various points are eminently beautiful. We might particularly specify that comprehending the Liffey, as it flows beneath the elegant arch of Sarah Bridge; the rich country beyond, embellished with country-seats, and the Grand Canal, marked in its course by rows of elms; the city on the east; and the soft blue contour of the Wicklow Mountains along the horizon: besides which, there are several picturesque interior views, together with miniature lakes, romantic glens, retired walks, leading to 'alleys green, dingle, and bushy dell in the wild wood,' and hawthorn groves, in spring loaded with blossoms which fill the air with fragrance. The *Fifteen Acres*, as it is called, is the only open level space that can with propriety be termed a plain: this, being divested of trees, is used to exercise the troops in garrison; and was formerly much noted, and it is so in a degree at present, as the spot where disputes of honour were commonly adjusted.

The Vice-regal Lodge, or summer retreat of the Lord-Lieutenant, stands at a short distance from the principal road through the park, to which it forms a tolerable architectural ornament. Though originally a plain brick building, successive improvements by Lord Hardwicke, the Duke of Richmond, and Lord Whitworth, have now rendered it a befitting residence for the viceroy: to Lord Whitworth it is more especially indebted for its north front, ornamented with an Ionic portico and pediment, with which the whole façade has latterly been made to correspond. There are also houses for the ranger and principal secretary, but they are unworthy of particular notice.

The Royal Infirmary is on the right, the Wellington

Testimonial on the left, of this road, as we enter from the city. The former we shall first describe.

The Royal Infirmary, or Soldiers' Hospital, exhibits a handsome front of granite stone, composed of a centre, surmounted by a cupola and clock, and two returning wings, each 90 feet in depth. Placed on a yet more elevated site than the Royal Hospital of Kilmainham, it commands a pleasing prospect of the valley, and windings of the Liffey, which intervene; together with extensive views of the park, and a highly embellished country. The salubrity of such a situation is unquestionable; and this circumstance, added to the excellence of the plan of the edifice, are powerful recommendations of its utility as a military hospital.

The first stone of the building was laid in the presence of the Duke of Rutland, on the 17th of August, 1786; and, being completed in 1788, it was in the latter year visited by the celebrated philanthropist, Howard, who is said to have expressed his unqualified approbation of the general design. The wards, 13 in number, are distinguished as medical and surgical; the hall which occupies the centre of the building, and at present serves for a chapel, separating the former from the latter. The new fever hospital stands in rear of the infirmary, perfectly detached, and on a sufficiently airy site. A plot of ground, including the platform on which the building stands, has been walled off from the park, and is allotted to the use of the convalescents; it descends rapidly to a valley, through which flows a lively stream, margined by a gravelled walk, and imparting to the whole scene an air of neatness, cheerfulness, and comfort. In a distant angle of this plot, some of the officers of the house have small gardens: and here is a range of buildings containing the laundry, the prison wards for sick deserters, &c. lunatic cells, medical-board stores, with the charnel or dead house.

The Wellington Testimonial is as yet unfinished: we

shall therefore subjoin Mr. Walsh's account of it as it is to be. Mr. W.'s description is that of the model from a design by Smirke, now in the hall of the Dublin Society's House, being the one selected from a great number, by the committee who conduct the work for the numerous subscribers. "On the summit platform of a flight of steps, of an ascent so steep, and a construction so uncouth, that they seem made to prohibit, instead of to invite the spectator to ascend them, a pedestal is erected of the simplest square form, in the die of which, on the four sides, are as many pannels, having figures in basso-relievo, emblematical of the principal victories won by the Duke. Before the centre of what is intended for the principal front is a narrow pedestal insulated, and resting partly on the steps and partly on the platform. This pedestal supports an equestrian statue of the hero. From the platform, a massive obelisk rises, truncated, and of thick and heavy proportions. On the four façades of the obelisk are inscribed the names of all the victories gained by the Duke of Wellington, from his first career in India to the battle of Waterloo. The whole structure is to be of plain mountain granite, without any other decoration whatever. The dimensions as follow: base, formed by the lowest step, 120 feet on each side, or in circuit 480 feet.—Perpendicular section of steps, 20 feet.—Subplinth of pedestal on the top of steps, 60 feet square by 10 feet high.—Pedestal, 56 feet square by 24 feet high.—Obelisk, 28 feet square at the base, and 150 feet high, diminishing in the proportion of one inch in every foot.—Total height of the monument, 205 feet.—A public monument at once magnificent and beautiful, (continues Mr. Walsh) rich and appropriate in its decorations, yet striking and impressive in its general effect, is, it must be confessed, not easy to invent or construct. If the ancients are our supreme masters in any art or science, it is in architecture: the more we deviate from the specimens left by them,

the more we run into absurdity and deformity. Now, the obelisk is not classical for a *triumphal* trophy. If it be admissible, it must belong to the funereal order, ranking with the pyramid and such mausolea. It originated in Egypt, where it was also used as a gnomon to mark the meridian. Obelisks are already numerous enough in Ireland. The figure, simple as it is, betrays a great poverty of invention. The model seems to have been borrowed from those little obelisks made of spar, the common ornaments of chimney-pieces, which the monument in question resembles in every thing but size and polish. But the obelisk form is not the only objection to the Wellington Testimonial. Its base, composed of an inclined plane of inconvenient steps, is abrupt and unsightly. The pedestal, with the basso-relievos, though the least exceptional part, resembles a huge tomb-stone, to which a minor pedestal is attached, like an excrescence, on which is placed the equestrian statue, that contrives to conceal the figures sculptured on the front entablature, whilst the shaft of the obelisk is remarkably clumsy. Judging therefore from the model, the *tout ensemble* produces an effect singularly heavy, bald, and frigid."—With all possible deference to the author of these opinions, we must, however, remark that, judging from our own view of the model, his animadversions appear somewhat too severe: the obelisk form may not have been that best suited to the intended testimonial, but we cannot but consider the effect of the pillar, so far as completed, imposing. The steps, however, by which an ascent to the pillar is obtained, do not harmonize with the general effect, chiefly because, on account of their inconvenient height, which a due regard to proportion rendered necessary, recourse has been had to rounding and sloping, in order to facilitate the spectator's rise. The site, forming the highest ground in the park, is that formerly occupied by the Salute Battery, and was given by the Board of Ordnance to

the Wellington Committee with a view to the erection of this trophy. In rear, stand the remains of another fortress, called the Star Fort; with the citadel, a polygon of considerable diameter, and, as the work of the Duke of Wharton, when Lord-Lieutenant, sometimes called *Wharton's Folly*. It is said that the eccentric viceroy intended this as a retreat from the disturbances he apprehended in Dublin, in consequence of an attack upon King William's statue, in College-green, shortly after his arrival; but his fears proving groundless, the design was never completed. There is another erection of this nature within the park, called the powder magazine, which is a regular square fort, built in 1738. It has 'demi-bastions at the angles, a dry ditch, and draw-bridge: in the centre are the magazines for ammunition, well secured against accidental fire, and bomb-proof; in evidence of which, no casualty has happened since their construction. The fort occupies two acres and 33 perches of ground, and is fortified by 10 24-pounders: as a farther security, and to contain barracks for troops, which before were drawn from Chapel-Izod, an additional triangular work was constructed in 1801.'

The Hibernian School, stands near the south-western angle of the park, and commands an extensive and cheerful view. It was founded in consequence of a petition to his Majesty, presented, in 1769, from the then Lord Primate, and the most distinguished among the nobility, gentry, and clergy of Ireland, stating that "upon the death of non-commissioned officers and private men in the army of the said kingdom, &c. great numbers of children had been left destitute of all means of subsistence; that a subscription had been set on foot in the year 1764, for raising a fund to support the establishment of an hospital, in order to preserve children left in such circumstances from popery, beggary, and idleness; that the subscribers had received great encouragement from parliament and the public: and

said petitioners prayed, that his Majesty would be graciously pleased by letters patent under the great seal of the said kingdom of Ireland, to incorporate said petitioners, and other subscribers to the said charitable institution." The Hibernian Society was thereupon incorporated "for maintaining, educating, and apprenticing the orphans and children of soldiers in Ireland, for ever;" and "in order more effectually to promote the ends of the institution, his Majesty was graciously pleased to grant a new charter to the society, (in 1808) by which they are empowered to place in the regular army as private soldiers, in such corps as from time to time his Majesty shall please to appoint, but with their own free consent, the orphans and children of soldiers in Ireland for ever." The school consists of a centre, connected by subordinate buildings with wings, forming altogether a plain front of rubble-stone, plastered and dashed on the exterior, the length of which is 300 feet: there are besides a detached dining-hall, infirmary, and chapel. The latter is usually attended by the vice-regal family, when resident at the lodge. To the school a farm of about 19 acres is attached, cultured by a certain number of the boys, with the assistance of a gardener and two labourers; and which, without requiring such a degree of attention from the scholars, as to deprive them of the hours devoted to instruction in useful learning, as well as in some branches of trade, produces to the institution a profit of £500 annually. The female children are employed in works suitable to their sex; their course of education is similar to that of the boys; and both, when of a proper age, are apprenticed to various trades, or as servants, &c.: but of late years a martial spirit has been sedulously cultivated among the male pupils, although their parents almost universally prefer their being put out to some trade, that may enable them to acquire a future maintenance, to their embarking in the profession of a soldier.

The Phoenix Pillar, which stands in the centre of an area where four great avenues meet, and from which there are entrances to the vice-regal lodge and those of the chief and under secretaries, was erected by Lord Chesterfield, during his lieutenancy. Its height is 30 feet, including the phoenix at the summit; the column of the Corinthian order, fluted, and highly ornamented. On the east and west sides of the pedestal are the following inscriptions:

CIVIVM OBLECTAMENTO
CAMPVM RVDEM ET INCVLTVM
ORNARI IVSSIT
PHILIPPVS STANHOPE,
COMES DE CHESTERFIELD
PROREX.

IMPENSIS SVIS POSVIT
PHILIPPVS STANHOPE, COMES
DE CHESTERFIELD, PROREX.

It is somewhat singular, that the imaginary bird, from which the park is generally supposed to derive its appellation, and in allusion to which this column was undoubtedly erected, bears no relation to the name of the *manor*, from which it is actually called. This, in the Irish tongue, was *Fionn-uisge*, signifying clear or fair water, and which, being pronounced *Finniské*, so nearly resembled, in the English articulation, the word *Phœnix*, that it either obtained that name from the first English settlers, or was by them speedily corrupted into it. The 'fair water' was a chalybeate spring, which still exists in a glen near the grand entrance to the vice-regal lodge, and has been frequented from time immemorial for its imputed salubrity. "It remained, however, in a rude and exposed state till the year 1800, when in consequence of some supposed cures it had effected, it immediately acquired celebrity, and was much frequented. About five years after, it was enclosed, and it is now among the romantic objects of the park. It is approached by a gradual descent through a planted

avenue. The spar is covered by a small structure of Portland stone, on which sits a colossal eagle, as the emblem of longevity. This appropriate ornament was erected by Lord Whitworth. Behind the spring, under the brow of the hill, is a rustic dome, with seats round it for the accommodation of those who frequent the spa; in the back of which is an entablature (a tablet) with the following inscription:

This seat,
Given by her Grace,
CHARLOTTE DUCHESS OF RICHMOND,
For the Health and Comfort
Of the Inhabitants
Of Dublin.—August 19, 1813.

The Duke of Richmond and Lord Whitworth used this spa with much benefit, and their example has been followed by the citizens of Dublin. In the summer nearly 1000 persons frequent it every week. The price for the season is five shillings, and for a single tumbler one penny.*

Quitting the Phoenix Park at its north-eastern boundary, and again entering the Circular Road, we pass the Female Orphan House on our left, an excellent institution, originating in 1790 in the benevolent exertions of two ladies, Mrs. Ed. Tighe, and Mrs. Ch. Este. The commencement was of course humble; but these amiable women had almost immediately the heartfelt satisfaction to see a noble institution rise from their limited establishment, supported by liberal subscriptions, and by grants from parliament: by the assistance of the latter, a detached chapel has also been recently erected. The situation of the house is airy and healthy, having in front an area planted with trees and shrubs, and in the rear a large garden. The present number of the children is 160.

We now cross the branch of the Royal Canal, which

* Mr. Walsh, II. 1306.

communicates with the spacious harbour adjoining Brunswick-street. This canal boasts a noble aqueduct over the great north-western road, which is inscribed:

FOSTER AQUEDUCT.

Serius in cœlum redeas diuque per ora, &c.

An intended compliment to the Right Hon. John Foster; but, by an unlucky position of the name and the inscription, the words '*serius in cœlum redeas*' are addressed to the aqueduct. Like the Grand Canal, which flows round the southern half of the city as this does the northern, it is on a large scale; being 42 feet wide at the surface, 24 at the bottom, and having locks and a depth of water calculated for boats of from 40 to 50 tons burden. Its object was a still-water navigation from the capital to the same noble river, the Shannon; but as the Grand Canal was directed towards the middle and lower parts of it, so this was pointed towards its source, more particularly with a view to the beds of coal and iron found in that vicinity: the expected profits of the collieries and iron-works, however, have failed, the produce being undersold by that of Cumberland. The canal was completed, (in consequence of the company having stopped payment after carrying it as far as Coolnahay, about six miles from Mullingar,) at the expense of government, in 1817; the latter conducting it about 24 miles farther to Tarmonbury on the Shannon. The incapacity or mismanagement of the '*Undertakers*' was sufficiently evident in 1796; when the grant of £66,000 from parliament, in addition to the £134,000 subscription of the Company, with other large sums borrowed, were expended on a line of 15 miles from Dublin to Kilcock! But this only affords another proof, that Ireland is not qualified to carry on great national undertakings by private companies. '*The experience of ages,*' it has been observed, '*has qualified English financiers, in private life,*

to manage the concerns of a company in a national work; and the English character of prudence, thrift, and regularity, so opposite to the Irish, sanguine, venturesome, and extravagant, in pecuniary affairs, would alone draw a distinction between the two countries in the mode of conducting public works.'

The other branch of this canal which enters the capital, falls into the spacious docks north of the Liffey, and communicates with that river by sea-locks, capable of admitting ships of 150 tons burden. From the point where the two branches unite, the canal passes near Lucan and Leixlip; crosses the Rye Water, a stream tributary to the Liffey, on an aqueduct of one arch, supporting a vast bank of earth, on the summit of which the canal and track-ways pass, at an elevation of near 100 feet above the river; visits Carton, Maynooth, and Kilcock; crosses the Boyne on a plain, but elegant aqueduct of three arches; passes near Kinnegad, (to which a lateral branch of two and a half English miles is intended;) circles round Mullingar; and from Coolnahay, a little farther, is carried to the Shannon as before mentioned. It has been urged by some, that had the line of this canal been more northerly at its commencement, many difficulties and much expense might have been avoided, particularly the cost of the aqueduct over the Rye Water, which alone amounted to £30,000; and we cannot altogether deem this opinion unfounded: yet the difficulties encountered, and by persevering energy subdued, by the company, certainly entitled them to some praise. Near Dublin the cut was through a solid limestone rock, about 30 feet below the surface, for the distance of a mile and a half; a similar obstacle opposed its progress near Mullingar; and in the vicinity of the Boyne, and many other parts, the canals and trackways are supported, for miles together, on the summit of an embankment raised 20 feet above the adjacent country, in order to preserve the level. For some time after

this grand work was completed, the difficulty of paying interest on the money raised for that purpose, drove the directors to the expedient of levying tolls so high, as to operate as a severe check upon the degree of commerce, that else would undoubtedly have been sooner brought into play through the facilities afforded by so noble an inland navigation. Under the management of the present company, we understand that this canal is considered an improving concern.

Ere reaching the road, branching from the circular, which leads to Howth, we shall have passed two other of those charitable institutions, in which Dublin is seen so conspicuously to abound; these are the Dublin Female Penitentiary, and the Asylum for Old Men in Russell-place: they are both excellent as to their general plan and conduct. Aldborough-house, at the junction of these roads, is now known as the Feinaiglian Establishment, where instruction is given in that well-known Professor's system of artificial memory. Our road may be that leading towards Ballybough Bridge, where is the Jews' Cemetery, a piece of ground inclosed with a high wall, and planted with shrubs and trees: it is much larger than the population of that sect, which has much dwindled, would seem to require, did they not adhere strictly to the precepts of their rabbins, who teach that it is not lawful to disturb the repose of the dead, by opening the same grave twice. Here appear a few tombstones, inscribed with Hebrew characters; and they were formerly much more numerous, until stolen to be converted into hearth-stones, and to other purposes; the people of the neighbourhood not appearing to consider it any species of sacrilege to plunder the grave of a Jew, though they should be very scrupulous in violating that of a Christian. A curious anecdote of this nature is told. A Jew paying a visit a short time ago to a Christian friend in the vicinity of Ballybough Bridge, found him in the act of repairing his house. Examining the im-

provements, he perceived near the fire-place a stone, with a Hebrew inscription, intimating to the astonished Israelite, that the body of his father was buried in the chimney! In 1746, the Jews of Dublin amounted only to about 200 individuals; and they at present consist only of two families, not including a dozen persons.*

The drive from Annesly Bridge, (over which, we should inform the reader, is the more direct road,) leads by the edge of the bay, and commands a most interesting view of its extensive surface, with the noble pier terminated by the light-house, the city, and the mountains of Dublin and Wicklow; at points presenting scenes of enchanting beauty. Marino, the seat of Lord Charlemont, is here sweetly situated, at about a mile's distance from Dublin. The Casino, a beautiful little temple, built by Sir William Chambers, from a design of his late lordship, stands naked and simple in the middle of an open lawn; and contrasts with Rosamond's Bower, erected at the upper extremity of a lake, in a dark sequestered retreat, embosomed with trees: the stained glass, fretted mouldings, and pointed ornaments of the latter giving as pure a model of the Gothic, as is afforded by the former of the Italian style. This beautiful demesne, the frequent resort of the citizens of Dublin, to whom it is freely thrown open by its liberal proprietor, contains much that will charm the traveller of taste, while it may mingle a pleasing melancholy with the recollections of the patriot. For this was the favourite residence of the great and good individual, who drew copiously from his stores of classic taste in its embellishment, not merely from a love of the arts, but from a sense of duty as a citizen, who was bound to cultivate the interests of the country that gave him birth. "I was sensible," said this excellent man, "that it was my indis-

* A singular contrast in this respect is afforded by the city of Amsterdam, the population of which does not much exceed that of Dublin, yet includes not less than 40,000 people of this persuasion.

pensable duty to live in Ireland, and I determined by some means or other to attach myself to my native land; and principally with this view I began those improvements at Marino, as without some attractive employment, I doubted whether I should have resolution to become a resident." Would that many would follow the example of this nobleman; and, by decorating their country with such tasteful abodes, and *residing* on the spot marked with their improvements, confer an obligation on their native soil, and diffuse a perfume also round their own memories, each as lasting as the native loveliness of their 'emerald isle,' and the gratitude of its warm-hearted inhabitants! His present lordship, it is but justness to state, is one of those estimable men of exalted rank, whose public and private conduct may be said to ennoble their nobility; but his highest praise still is, that he makes it his first aim to tread in the steps of his enlightened predecessor.

The late Lord Charlemont, of whom some slight account is here due, was one of the most accomplished persons of his time, and as amiable, patriotic, and truly honest a man, as perhaps ever adorned any age or country. He was born at Dublin, on the 18th of March, 1728. After a domestic education by private tutors, he spent some years in travelling, particularly in Italy, where he met with and patronized Sir William Chambers; and, on his return to Ireland, planned Marino, an edifice by which he materially contributed to the spread of that architectural taste, which now so proudly distinguishes the Irish capital. In 1763, he was advanced to the dignity of an Earl, in consequence of his mild but spirited exertions for restoring tranquillity to a disturbed district in the north of Ireland—a service which he effected without the loss of a single life: he accepted the proposed honour, however, solely on the condition that the advancement of his rank should in no way be expected to influence his parliamen-

tary conduct. In 1768, he married the very amiable and accomplished Miss Hickman, daughter of Richard Hickman, of County Clare, esq., by whom he had the present Earl, and other children. As President of the Volunteer Convention, in 1786, his lordship equally distinguished himself by his firmness, moderation, and loyalty; as Commandant of the Leinster Army, he had previously devoted his whole time and mind to the general prosperity and usefulness of this most respectable body of men; restraining, by his unbounded influence, (in such veneration was he held) every thing like intemperate ebullition, whenever the disposition to it had partially appeared, and directing almost the entire body of the association to sentiments of loyalty for their king, united with a manly and firm devotion to the rights and just claims of their country. When many of these troops afterwards degenerated into factious demagogues, and greatly contributed to the acceleration of the rebellion of 1798, it was a sufficient exculpation of Lord Charlemont, that his voice, which had so long operated as a pacific charm, had lost all influence over them. Having now nearly 18 years, in his parliamentary capacity, established the legislative independence of his country, he did not live to see the extinguishment of that independence, chiefly through the unhappy troubles by which the island had been recently convulsed, but died on the 4th of August, 1799, at Charlemont-house, Dublin; and his remains were conveyed to the family vault in the ancient cathedral of Armagh. He composed this simple and modest epitaph for himself:

“ Here lies the Body of
James, Earl of Charlemont,
a sincere, zealous, and active friend
to his Country.

Let his posterity imitate him in that alone,
and forget

His manifold Errors.”

Being intimate with all the celebrated men of his time,

there are still some living who remember how long his seat at Marino was the temple of taste, science, and hospitality.

The village of Clontarf is rendered conspicuous by its Charter School, the dome of which is a prominent object: it is the great resort of bathers from the north side of the city. Its rear is intersected by pretty roads, called green lanes, laid out with neat villas for the accommodation of company in the summer months. Once a celebrated fishing town, a particular spot was called *The Sheds*, from the number of wooden huts erected there for the purpose of drying fish; and Clontarf is yet famous for its mine, and still more so for the memorable battle fought here between the Irish and the Danes, on Good Friday, in the year 1014; in which the latter were defeated, and

“Brien—the glory and grace of his age,”

fell, but in the arms of victory. This closing achievement of the veteran monarch, whose “hand was bent on war, but whose heart was for the peace of Erin,” has been already more than once alluded to in these pages; and various are the spots in the island which, in one way or other, associate themselves with the memory of this illustrious chieftain and prince, to have produced whom were glory enough for ancient Ireland. For though we are perfectly aware, that many are our highly to be respected opponents in opinion not only as to this hero, but in relation to many facts and circumstances attaching to the ancient history of the Island; yet we can but remember, in regard to Brien, (as we think there is the sanction of sufficient probability to believe) that, in war, victory pursued his path; in peace, the arts embellished his repose; and that property respected, oppression punished, religion venerated, invasion crushed, literature encouraged, and law maintained, were the characteristics of an age, which it is a fashion with too many modern Irishmen to talk of as

unlimitedly barbarous, but of which the historian must speak with delight, and the monarch may study with improvement.

Brien Boromhe, or Boru, as the name is commonly pronounced, is computed to have been born in the year 926; and passed through the usual course of education appropriated to the sons of the Irish kings, in which war, literature, and politics, formed the necessary basis on which to ground the instruction of the future ruler. His first essay in arms was in the capacity of general to his brother Mahon, King of North Munster, when he entirely routed a numerous and almost overwhelming body of Danes, who had made a plundering incursion into the country under his protection. Soon after this victory, an insurrection in Munster ending in the violent death of Mahon, Brien ascended to the vacant throne, and his first efforts were directed to the punishment of his brother's murderers; in which he completely succeeded, although the conspirators had called the common enemy, the Danes, to their assistance. Becoming, in 968, king of both Munsters, he speedily cleared them from the invaders, and re-established their former privileges. He gave new vigour to the laws by summoning a feis, or parliament, at Cashell; caused the ruined churches and monasteries to be rebuilt, and the bishops and clergy to be restored to their livings. His annual revenue, as King of Munster, was such as is calculated to give an imposing idea of the riches of Ireland in his time: a particular account of it is contained in the *Leabhar na Cleart*, or Book of Rights, which O'Halloran has translated.

The jealousy with which Brien was regarded by the other sovereigns of the island, as well as by Malachie, the chief monarch, of whom the others held their states by fealty, was equalled only by the malicious aggressions they made upon his territory; these at length terminated in the issue to which justice and reason pointed; the

generous magnanimity of Brien was contrasted with the passive temporising spirit of Malachie, and the crown of Ireland became our hero's, not by conquest alone, but at the earnest petition of the wisest and best in the nation for his assumption of it. From that moment, the reign of Brien, which may properly be said to have commenced in 1001, presents an assemblage of every virtue which can endear the heart, and every talent which can exalt the man. He re-edified the theological and Tilean colleges, opened new academies, erected public libraries for the use of indigent students, animated timid merit by well grounded hopes, and patronized with steady zeal all professors of the liberal arts. Among the latter, he was particularly attached to music, and he himself excelled in the practice of that delightful science. His favourite harp, on which he is said to have played on the eve of the battle so glorious to his own and his country's fame, although so fatal to himself, is still preserved, as has been noticed, in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, and is a fine memorial of the scientific and mechanical skill of the Irish artists in his reign. It is an universally received tradition in the county of Clare, where he was born, that the beautiful air—*Thugamuir fein an samhra lin*, "We brought summer with us," was his favourite composition, and that he played it on this occasion, both in allusion to the time of the year in which the battle was fought, and the prospect of prosperity to Ireland from the anticipated expulsion of the Danes. The power of the Danes was indeed effectually broken in this engagement, and never afterwards revived so as to need *foreign* assistance to complete its overthrow; and happy had it been for Ireland, had her princes, after the death of Brien, improved the repose his victories had purchased for them, by treading in his footsteps, instead of replunging their country into civil dissensions, and thereby hastening its declension to that state in which it was found by the

English under Henry II., when the once highly cultivated soil, and no less cultivated mind, had been converted apparently into physical and mental deserts. But the bright era of Irish history, which commenced at a period of which there are few authentic records, appears to have virtually terminated in the year 815, when the country was subdued by the Danish leader Turgesius; the gleam of national prosperity during the reign of Brien, was as transient as the ray of sunshine, which sometimes bursts momentarily from the dark horizon, though the day is fast setting in undistinguishable gloom: a succession of such monarchs as Brien, could alone, perhaps, have restored the country to the early illumination reflected on it by the united splendour of its arts and arms. With the recollections, however, of such a reign as was that of this monarch, and of the sanguinary field which, at the age of *eighty-eight*, closed his glorious career, who can pass through the little village of Clontarf without feelings of interest and respect?

“ Long his loss shall Erin weep,
 “ Ne’er again his likeness see,
 “ Long her strains in sorrow steep,
 “ Strains of immortality!”*

The views, both coastwise and inland, as we sweep round the north side of the bay to Howth, are singularly beautiful.

On arriving near Kilbarrack Church, indeed, which stands on the left side of the road, the appearance of the country, contrasted with its richly cultivated surface nearer Dublin, is bare and desolate. We now traverse

* *Gray*.—It is asserted in Bunting’s first collection of the Irish Melodies, that it was this battle of Clontarf, and the death of Brien, which gave the subject to our elegant poet of the ‘Fatal Sisters.’ This ode is given in the original Norse, with a literal Latin translation, in *Bam. Hist. Orkney Islands*, 1808.

the low sandy isthmus by which the Hill of Howth is connected with the main land; but which, from its flatness, and not having been hitherto discoverable, the promontory has appeared an island of imposing form. Formed entirely of the sands which the tides of successive ages have here collected, the isthmus is sterile to that degree, that no trees of any kind will grow on the original soil; a few patches of potatoes, forced by manuring with sea-weed, are nearly the only signs of cultivation visible upon it. Kilbarrack Church is a not uninteresting ruin; and the adjoining church-yard being still used as a cemetery, one of the graves was prettily decorated, when we visited it, with an ornament of fantastically wreathed osiers, about a yard in height, with numerous shreds of white paper attached: such decorations, we were informed, commonly denote that a young unmarried woman is interred on the spot thus marked for the eye of the passenger.

Southwards, across the bay, independent of the beauty of a vast surface of water constantly enlivened by the appearance of ships under sail, Dublin, and in the distance the Wicklow mountains, are seen from a particular point to great advantage, skirting the horizon with the most picturesque outline imaginable, while villas, interspersed through a rich and wooded country, descend from them to the remote edge of the bay. The northward prospect now begins to embrace a wider range, bounded by the mountains of Mourne, distant 40 Irish miles, and including, near at hand, the rugged rock called Ireland's Eye, and, at a short distance farther, the island of Lambay. Fronting us is the little fishing-town of Howth, consisting of a single street running along the edge of the cliff, and a congregation of huts at its base; and on the right, the white battlements of the venerable mansion of Lord Howth, called Howth Castle, emerge from the dark wood in which it is embosomed: the

estate over which it appears constructed to reign, includes the whole peninsula of Howth, containing 1500 square acres (Irish,) and, without increase or diminution, has continued for more than six centuries in his lordship's family, having been their residence since the arrival of the first adventurers from England. The name of the earliest of these, of this family, was Sir Armory Tristram, "and the adventures recorded of his life, and received as authentic, are more extraordinary than those of any hero in romance. Happening to meet with Sir John de Courcy, who was married to his sister, in the church of St. Mary, at Rouen, he there made a compact with him, that whatever they should win in any realm, either by conquest or otherwise, should be divided between them. On the faith of this agreement, they sought adventures together through Normandy, France, and England, and finally proceeded to Ireland, where the first land they made was Howth. De Courcy was confined by illness to his ship, and the command devolved on Sir Armoricus, who having pushed to shore, was opposed by the Irish at the bridge of Evora, and a fierce encounter ensued, in which seven sons, nephews, and uncles of Sir Armoricus were slain. The Irish were finally defeated, and the land and title of Howth were allotted to him as his share of the conquest. The bridge of Evora, where this battle is said to have been fought, crosses a mountain stream, which falls into the sea on the north side of Howth, nearly opposite the west end of Ireland's Eye. In clearing out the foundation for the new parish church, erected a few years ago near this spot, a quantity of bones were discovered scattered over an extensive space: and, in the neighbourhood, an antique anvil, with bridle bits and other parts of horse harness. It is conjectured, with some probability, that the armourers' forge was erected on this spot, where the knights were accoutred preparatory to the battle. Sir Armoricus,

after a variety of other perilous and wild adventures in Ireland, was surrounded by a superior force in Connaught. His knights were inclined to avail themselves of their horses, and save themselves by flight; but their leader, dismounting, drew his sword, and kissing the cross of it, thrust it into his horse's side: his example was followed by all the knights except two, who were sent to a neighbouring hill, to be spectators of the approaching combat. The Normans were cut off, not a man escaping besides the two who afterwards testified the circumstances of the heroic transaction. Some time after, the original family name of Tristram was changed to St. Lawrence, for the following reason:—One of them commanded an army near Clontarf, against the common invaders, the Danes. The battle was fought on St. Lawrence's day, and he made a vow to the Saint, common in those times, that if he were victorious he would assume his name, and entail it upon his posterity. The Danes were defeated, and his vow was religiously preserved.* Another romantic circumstance is related of this family. The celebrated Grana Uille, or Grace O'Malley, was noted for her piratical depredations in the reign of Elizabeth. Returning on a certain time from England, where she had paid a visit to the queen, she landed at Howth, and proceeded to the castle. It was the hour of dinner, and the gates were shut. Shocked at an exclusion so repugnant to her notions of Irish hospitality, she immediately proceeded to the shore, where the young lord was at nurse, and seizing the child, embarked with him, and sailed to Connaught, where her own castle stood. After some time, however, she restored the child, with the express stipulation that the gates should be always thrown open when the fa-

* Clogher's M.S. quoted by Lodge, III. 180.

mily went to dinner, a practice which is observed at this day.”*

The castle is a long battlemented structure, flanked by square towers at each extremity, and approached by a large flight of steps, which are modern. A spacious hall extends along the whole front of the building, ornamented within by the weapons and armour of ancient days, and, among the rest, is the identical two-handed sword with which Sir Armoricus Tristram, the first English proprietor already mentioned, defeated the Danes. In a chamber, to which a flight of steps leads from the hall, is a painting said to represent the abreption of the young Lord Howth. A female is mounted on a white horse, receiving a child from a peasant; above, the sky seems to open, and a figure is represented looking down on the group below. The picture however, appears to allude to some other subject, though the tradition of the castle refers it to this. In this room is a bed in which William III. slept, and which is preserved exactly as it then was, in remembrance of that circumstance. In the saloon are some good portraits; among others, a full-length of Dean Swift in his robes, with the “Draper’s Letters” in his hand; the figure of Wood is crouching beside him, and his halfpence are scattered about: the hangings of this apartment remain as they were first placed upwards of a century ago, and their appearance is such as to corroborate this rather curious fact. Over a door-way to a range of offices, connected with the west end of the castle, is a curious inscription, containing the initials of Christopher, the twentieth Lord of Howth, usually called the *Blind Lord*, and of Elenor Plunket, whom he married; their arms are impaled on a shield in the centre, with the motto of the Howth family, and the date, 1564. The original castle of Howth, now a ruin, is situated on another part of the domain.

* Whitelaw and Walsh, II. 1256.

In a meadow adjacent to the castle, to the south-east, may be seen a large *Cromlech*, or *Druidical Altar*,* consisting of a ponderous mass of unhewn rock, 14 feet long, 12 broad, and 6 thick, resting in an inclined position upon vast shapeless masses of the same material. The position of the upper stone was originally more horizontal than at present, one of the supporters having broken with its weight, and thus occasioned it to rest with one edge upon the ground; but the superincumbent mass, in all these curious relics of antiquity, many of which exist in Ireland, is more or less inclined,† and the stones of which they are composed are universally unmarked with the impression of any implement. Though generally attributed to the Druids, Sir James Ware is disposed to refer their origin to a yet more remote period than that at which they flourished, deducing them from the practice of the patriarchs, who were commanded to employ no tools in the construction of their simple altars. How such immense fragments should have been disposed in an artificial form, at an age when we are taught to believe that the powers derived from mechanics were unknown, must ever remain a subject for astonishment: the conjecture is at the least ingenious in regard to this monument, as it rests in a hollow, that the perpendicular stones were sunk in pits under the principal mass as it lay on the ground, and that the earth being afterwards dug away, it was left supported on these rude pillars.

The town of Howth is inhabited by a singularly hardy and healthy race of men, generally above the common height, who, until very lately, were noted smugglers,

* Called by the natives of Howth, *Fin's Quoit*, in allusion to the supposed derivation of its position—the force of Fin M'Comhl (or Fingal) 's arm, when engaged on that spot with a Dane.

† A circumstance in which the word *cromlech*, literally meaning a crooked or bending stone, originated.

and several of the fathers and grandfathers of the present race, are frankly stated by them to have died of wounds received in the pursuit of that illicit calling. In one encounter of this kind, it is narrated, a Howth man who had fallen, was found to have owed his death to the lodgment of a sleeve-button in his heart; a revenue-officer, whose ammunition was expended, having loaded his pistol with this extraordinary bullet.

The remains of the venerable Abbey or College of Howth occupy a romantic site, on the cliff overhanging the sea. Though its history is nearly buried in obscurity, it is generally supposed to have been built by Sihtric, a Danish prince, in 1038. The ruins are enclosed in an area of 189 feet by 168, defended on the north and east sides by a rampart, and on the opposite by a deep moat, the usual appendage of ancient religious edifices, being constructed either for their protection, or as courts whither the tenants of the clergy resorted for justice. The area is now a church-yard. The church contains a curious monument for Christopher, the thirteenth Lord Howth, erected in 1430; and an inscription 'To the Memory of Ann Flin,' which includes the following lines:

A friend that loved thy earthly form when here,
 Erects this stone to dust he held most dear;
 Thy happy genius oft his soul reviv'd,
 Nor sorrow felt he till of thee depriv'd:
 Peace to thy gentle shade, and endless rest
 To thy fair soul, now numbered with the blest!
 Yet take these tears—mortality's relief,
 And, till I share thy joy, forgive my grief:
 These little rites—a stone, a verse—receive,
 'Tis all a father, all a friend can give.

Deceased September 18, 1766,
 Aged near 21 years.

Mr. Lawrence Flin, bookseller in Limerick, who

composed this epitaph, was a native of Howth, where his family are possessed of two houses on insulated spots in the centre of Lord's Howth's property, supposed to be reservations made to their ancestors, and held as a tenure coeval with that of the family of Tristram. His remains are deposited near those of his beloved daughter. The belfry of this edifice is ascended by stairs on the outside to the roof. Several of the vaults have at different times been made repositories for smuggled goods, which have been repeatedly disinterred by the proper authorities.

The ruins on the south side of the enclosure, consist of the remains of a hall, kitchen, and seven cells. Some of the latter have been thatched, and now afford shelter to poor families. Howth Castle contains the bells anciently belonging to the abbey, they having been found on a recent search made for them in the former structure, when the metal was wanted for casting a bell for the new church of Howth—a neat edifice. A tradition that these bells were yet in existence in the castle, led to their discovery in a remote apartment; but as they were deemed too curious, from their inscriptions in old Roman characters, to be melted down, they were retained by Lord Howth, and a new bell provided for the church. They are three in number; and a farther tradition states, that they were cast in Italy, and presented to the abbey immediately after its foundation, which was upwards of a century before the arrival of the English.

Howth, in the Irish M.SS. is known by the name, once doubtless most appropriate, of *Bin Eider*, or the Cliff of the Eagle. It is seven miles distant from Dublin. A neat Roman-catholic chapel has been recently erected in the town.

Just below the eminence on which stand the ruins of the Abbey, the piers forming the new Harbour of Howth

extend in a direction towards Ireland's Eye, and, as forming a national work of great magnitude, though of comparatively questionable utility, they merit the particular attention of the tourist. The want of security in Dublin Bay has long been felt as no common misfortune, and the sacrifices of lives and property, from this circumstance, have been annually very great. The sound between Ireland's Eye and Howth, seemed to possess many natural advantages for an harbour that should remedy some important defects in the bay; together with disadvantages which, in that warmth which has been remarked in the prosecution of other novel works in this country, appear to have been overlooked or disregarded. In order properly to appreciate both the former and the latter, the situation of this sound should be clearly understood. The eastern entrance, about half a mile in width, lies between two ledges of rocks, which advance to it on either side, the one from Howth, the other from the south-eastern point of the island. From the north-west point of the island runs a similar ledge, leaving between it and the sand-bank under Howth a like entrance; and upon these foundations, thus grandly laid by nature, it was proposed in one of the plans presented to erect the piers, leaving the passages as already formed, and simply marking the limits of the masonry by beacons, while the *whole sound* between the island and the peninsula would have formed a single capacious basin. Had this plan been carried into effect, the contiguity of the sound to the open sea, its great depth at low water, its pure bottom for a very sufficient extent, its natural enclosures, and the vicinity of a hill-stream from Howth, so situated that it might at a trifling expense be conveyed into boats and the holds of small vessels, all presented so many recommendations of this harbour, that nothing perhaps could counterbalance them, *except* the circumstance, that it must

still have been difficult of access in storms—precisely the occasions on which its services were most wanted, on account of Dublin harbour being placed in the like predicament, by the bar across its entrance at low water. But the plan actually adopted, besides retaining this objection, (which, indeed, it was impossible to obviate) includes others which, upon the more enlarged but not more expensive scheme, would undoubtedly have been less apparent. The deepest and best anchorage the sound affords, is left *without* the pier; one third of the space within is dry at half-ebb, and two thirds at low water; at the latter time, the deepest part near the entrance, is only 12 feet; and it consequently denies admission to most of the foreign ships trading to Dublin, as they usual draw from 13 to 16 feet of water. Add to this, that the bottom is rocky—and then, that this magnificently constructed harbour should have become in effect little more than a packet-station for the Holyhead mails to and from Dublin, will not appear extremely surprising. To the packet-business, certainly, the work has proved eminently useful, saving these vessels the time which, unless the wind was west, used generally to be sacrificed to the labour of working out of the bay; while if the wind blew fresh from the east or north-east, or from the north at neap tides, they could not sail at all. Now it is true, they can be regularly dispatched at a fixed hour every night, with any wind, and in weather when it would be impossible to quit the Pigeon-house dock.*

* Westerly winds blow, on an average, for eight months in the year. Boate notices this circumstance, and in a manner shewing that the art of navigating packet-rigged vessels, with any wind when once at sea, was unknown in his time. “Commonly,” he observes, “there is no need of a wind to be wafted over to England, where, on the contrary, those who out of England will come over into Ireland, very ordinarily are constrained to waste two or three weeks, and sometimes five or six weeks; yea, it hath fallen out so

The harbour, as constructed, consists of a pier running out from Howth upon the eastern ledge of rocks to the distance of 1503 feet, a return from it in a north-west direction of 990 feet, (at the end of which is a handsome light-house,) and a westward pier of the length of 2020 feet, which runs from the shore to meet the return, but leaves a space of 300 feet for an entrance. The eastward pier is 38 feet high, 200 feet wide at the base, and 85 at high-water mark; and the westward 36 feet high, 170 feet wide at the base, and 80 at high-water mark; their surfaces form spacious roads, and along their edges run parapet walls: the area enclosed within these vast masses of masonry is 52 English acres. Rude fragments of rock, which were conducted by railways down the steep promontory above, form the bases of the interior of the wall, but the foundation of the fronts of mountain granite consists of blocks of red grit-stone, brought from the quarries of Runcorn in Cheshire. Diving-bells were necessarily employed in placing the first massive stones at so great a depth below the surface of the water. The cost is said to have been little less than £700,000.

Ireland's Eye, and Lambay, farther north, are small islands to which repeated allusion has been made in this volume. The former lies about one mile from the north side of the Hill of Howth, is nearly half a mile in length, and considerably more than a mile in circumference. On it are still to be seen the ruins of a church, said to have belonged to an abbey founded here by St. Nesson towards the end of the sixth century, in which the saint passed his life in devotional exercises, and where the venerated book of the Four Gospels, called the 'Garland of Howth' was preserved—"that

more than once, that in two whole months there hath not been so much east wind as to carry ships out of England into Ireland."—*Nat. Hist.* p. 96.

book," says Archbishop Allen, in his *Liber Niger*, "held in so much esteem and veneration, that good men scarcely dare take an oath upon it, for fear of the judgments of God being immediately shewn on those who should forswear themselves." This islet is an appendage to the estate of Lord Howth, and is particularly marked by an immense fragment of great altitude at its eastern extremity, which appears to have been rent from the main cliff by some violent convulsion of nature. It affords pasturage to cattle, which tradition says were formerly driven to it by a causeway extending across to Howth. It is noted for a fine breed of goshawks, which build among its rocks; and presents a singularity to the botanist in the garden rose (*rosa villosa*) growing wild on various parts of its surface.

Lambay rises into a considerable ridge about two miles from the coast, and is from three to four miles in circumference. It has a castle, built by John Challener in the reign of Edward VI., and yet in good repair. In the reign of Elizabeth, the island was granted to Archbishop Usher, from whose representatives it was purchased by the Talbots of Malahide; and in the latter family it still continues, the castle being their usual residence for some months during summer; and its liberal proprietor is one other of those enlightened Irish gentry, who in the most emphatic sense may be said to 'deserve well of their country.' The archbishop resided on the island for some time, and composed here several of his works. It contains eight resident families, and is very generally susceptible of cultivation. Among its natural productions may be enumerated an abundance of rabbits, sea-pies, and puffins: the Cornish chough (*corvus graculus*) with red bill and shanks, also frequents this island. Porphyry is so abundant that the whole substratum is thought to be composed of it.

On leaving the town of Howth, the traveller may as-

end the road which leads over the hill, and enjoy from it a new and interesting prospect of the islands, town, harbour, ruins, and a martello tower, below ; or he may visit, at some distance beneath, the singular precipice called Puck's Rock, appearing to have been insulated by some convulsion, which, also cleaving it nearly in two, left in it the present deep perpendicular fissure. Few have courage to venture into this chasm, but from boats an imaginary colossal figure is often viewed on the face of the rock, near the summit, recorded in a legendary tale to be an evil spirit, who, venturing in days of yore to assail the holy St. Necessan in his retreat at Ireland's Eye, was struck by the saint on the forehead with the sacred 'Garland of Howth' (which by good luck he was employed in reading) and by the force of the blow transmitted to the opposite coast, where the rock split with the weight of the gigantic figure he had assumed, and he was left secured in the fissure. In the course of centuries, he has by his struggles nearly succeeded in disengaging his body and arms, though one leg still remains firmly wedged in its place of confinement. The limestone found in great abundance on this part of the coast, is in many places very curiously imbedded with fossil shells. Not far distant, at the eastern extremity of the peninsula, on a steep cliff, stands the old light-house, now discontinued ; and the new road lately made from hence leads to the southern point of the promontory, where a second light-house was erected some years back, the site of which, says Mr. Walsh, "is rendered interesting by a traditionary anecdote. It is a small promontory, nearly detached from the main by a steep cavity. The little peninsula thus formed, from its constant and bright verdure was called the *Green Baillé*, which in Irish signified a town, or enclosed habitation. Here, it is said, a remnant of the Danish army retired after the battle of Clontarf, insulated the promontory, and

defended themselves till they were carried off in their vessels. It is certain that the excavation had all the appearance of an artificial fosse, before the ancient marks were obliterated by the road, and the works of the present light-house constructed upon it.”*

Slieu Martin, a conical eminence near the centre of the peninsula, has a large cairn on its summit, and near its base the ruins of a very ancient church, or oratory, dedicated to St. Fenton. On Carric-mor, an eminence of less magnitude just beneath, a signal-post has been erected, to communicate with the pigeon-house on the opposite side of the bay. From St. Fenton's Oratory, a narrow road leads down the hill, till it meets the main road near Kilbarrack Church; and by this, if he thinks proper, having noticed every thing worthy of observation that has occurred in the course of this Excursion, the traveller may return with us to Dublin.



As remarks have reached us relative to some observations occurring in the present volume, which have appeared to favour particular opinions in religion and politics, notwithstanding the disavowal of all party bias made in our introductory chapter, we may perhaps be permitted to offer a few words in explanation of the line of conduct, which in this respect we have thought it right to pursue. The modern situation of Ireland has so grown out of its past religious and political relations,

* Vol. II. p. 1266.

and the state of the country at the present moment exhibits so many features, for which it is impossible to account without reference to these subjects, (the very mention of which we would for our own parts have gladly proscribed) that a writer is placed in no common difficulties, who has undertaken a work of this nature, with a view to rendering it of a character superior to a mere matter-of-fact detail, but whose first wish at the same time is to avoid giving offence to readers of any class in the country attempted to be described. To succeed in both these objects, it appeared primarily necessary to *generalize* our remarks of this kind, when called for; but in aiming at this, we are aware that, in a few instances, we have been misapprehended in consequence of that very aim. Our statements have been *too general* in those instances; want of room, in a work whose limits are circumscribed, as well as adherence to the system mentioned, preventing the detail of such exceptions to general statements, as were perhaps necessary to be particularised in order to the perfect elucidation of our design. With this candid and ready avowal, we trust our Irish readers will be satisfied; accompanying it as we do with the assurance, that we shall feel the experience afford by the past, a monitory caution for the future. At the same time we must be permitted to observe, that the remarks alluded to, as forwarded from the other side of the Channel, in one instance originated in a simple typographical error; and in another, having been led to the exposition, for mere argument's sake, of the opinions entertained by a party in religion, the same want of room just complained of, while it operated to the exclusion of our own sentiments, induced the application of those party opinions to us! who, we are proud to say, are of no party—but that which, including as we think the wisest and the best of men, respects the religious and political rights of all, and

in an especial manner desires the union of all on the broad basis of religious and political equality. The passages alluded to will be particularised, and corrected, in the *Errata* which it will be necessary to append to the concluding volume for the Province of Leinster.

END OF VOL. I.

EXCURSIONS
THROUGH
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EXCURSION VII.

Through the Environs of Dublin, lying within the County of Dublin, and within a circuit of eight miles from the City.

THE tourist who, in the preceding Excursion, accompanied us to Howth, will doubtless prepare himself for numerous objects of equal interest, dispersed through the remaining environs of Dublin; and in this respect we fear not that he will experience disappointment. But, owing to the contrariety in the geographical positions of the places mentioned in this Excursion, we have found it impossible to sketch such a route as the traveller would be easily enabled to follow from our description of them; and have therefore thought it best to arrange them in alphabetical order, at the same time giving their several distances and bearings from the capital. Upon which plan, we shall first notice

BALDOYLE, six miles and a half N. E., upon the Irish Sea. This is a pleasant little bathing-village, commanding from its open beach a fine prospect of Howth and the adjacent islands. The air is keen, but pure and salubrious.

BALLYFERMOT, three miles and a half W. by S., is interesting only for its ruins of an ancient *Castle*.

BLACK ROCK, four miles S. E. This is a large and handsome village, agreeably situated upon Dublin Bay, and which, with **WILLIAMSTOWN** and **BOOTERSTOWN**, villages uniting with it, may be said to form a town of considerable size. From the last-mentioned place, which lies in the approach from Dublin, the marine and coast view is eminently beautiful; embracing the general fea-

tures of the bay, with the pier and harbour, Howth, and the islands beyond its sandy isthmus, a rich country finely studded with villas, and the promontory of the Black Rock, with the plantations contiguous, which slope down to the water's edge. To see these places to the greatest advantage, the tourist should visit them either at bathing-times, or on a Sunday; when the bustle and hilarity of the crowds who proceed hither in their endless succession of cars* and other vehicles, exhibit a scene not to be paralleled in any of the outlets to the British metropolis. On Sundays more particularly, perhaps, this road is actually clogged with the numbers who are going to or returning from Black Rock or Dunleary (the latter place about a mile and a quarter farther along the coast) and whose supreme pleasure appears to be that of fellowship on the ride, or in partaking of the *Snack* at one or other of the *Snack-houses* which abound in these villages, and seem to present their signs, decorated with this alluring and peculiar word, in perpetuity.—A *snack*, it should be mentioned by the way, is another name for what is generally a tolerably substantial substitute for a *dinner*, without being so expensive as a meal under the latter appellation might prove.—In addition to the cars, and a comparatively small number of jingles, Dunleary and Black Rock ‘*Royal Mails*’ and ‘*Flys*’ are continually passing and repassing along the road, besides a few gigs and carriages of other descriptions.—The Rev. Sir Harcourt Lees, Bart. has a handsome seat at an inconsiderable distance from *Sea-point*, and but little farther from Black Rock.

* The *Jaunting Car* of Dublin is very frequently an agreeable and not unhandsome conveyance. This machine holds from four to six persons, (besides the driver) who sit back to back, the wheels, concealed from their view, revolving under them. Though ever so heavily laden, one sorry horse only is afforded for the draught; and the rate at which the animal proceeds, is, under these circumstances, really astonishing. The use of this vehicle has of late years nearly supplanted that of the *Jingle*, before described, in Dublin.

BULLOCK, anciently written *Bloyke*, six miles and three quarters S. E., is a village possessing a small quay upon the bay. It has also a *Castle* and *Ramparts*, the date of which is unknown; but these defences are with great probability supposed to have been intended for the protection of commerce, both from the *Tories* of the mountains, and the pirates who in former times infested the neighbouring seas. The name of Booterstown, just noticed, may be conjectured to be a contraction for Freebooterstown; and that the place was so called either from its affording an occasional retreat to these pirates, or from its being the spot most frequently plundered by them;—but this is simply conjectural.

CANON BROOK, about seven miles W., contiguous to Lucan. The land being held under the Minor Canons of St. Patrick, and a pretty stream gliding among rocks through it, give rise to its name. The great improvements in regard to planting effected here by James Gandon, esq. deserve the warmest commendations, and are exemplary to the nobility and gentry of the island.

CASTLE KNOCK, four miles N. W. Here, as the name denotes, was a *Castle*, formerly of great strength; but the remains of which, though respectable as to age, (the edifice having been bestowed by the famed Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, &c. on 'his intrinsic friend Hugh Tyrrel') are now perfectly inconsiderable. It is worthy of a visit, however, were it only to enjoy the ample and beautiful prospect it commands from its bold site; while, as having constituted the head of a large seigniory, and been possessed by a family who were of importance through a long period of Irish history, it claims a degree of regard, which it were unnecessary to bestow on many of the numerous ruins of such edifices in Ireland. The lord of Castle Knock was a Hugh Tyrrel in the year 1288, and so was another of the same name in 1486. In 1316, it was taken by the Scotch adventurer, Edward Bruce, toge-

ther with Lord Hugh Tyrrel and his wife; but these personages were afterwards ransomed: and in June, 1642, it fell into the hands of Colonel Monk, with the loss of 80 men to the insurgents, besides those hung by order of this commander after his success.—Traditions, magnified by the exaggerations of successive ages into the most absurd impossibilities, assert that there was a spring of water at Castle Knock, the use of which was salutary to the human frame, but poisonous to beasts; and that a window of the castle, which was neither glazed nor latticed, would admit of a candle being placed within it, and kept burning, in the most violent storm, as well as in the calmest weather. In the thirteenth century, Lord Richard Tyrrel founded an abbey at Castle Knock, for Regular Canons following the rule of St. Augustin, and in honour of St. Bridget: its remains until recently constituted the *Parish-church*; but the present sacred edifice is a handsome new erection, for which Castle Knock is indebted to its late incumbent.

Drynmagh Castle, distant from Castle Knock eight miles, is situated on a romantic spot, of which our accompanying view may convey some idea to the reader. James the Second, after his defeat at the Boyne, slept one night within the walls of this castle.

CHAPEL-IZOD, two miles and three quarters W., is prettily situated on the banks of the Liffey, and adjoining the Phoenix Park. It is said to take its name from *La Belle Izod*, the daughter of Aongus, king of Ireland. Here is a barrack, which was formerly a depôt for the royal Irish artillery. The north bank of the Liffey, between this village and Lucan, rising abruptly from the river, and presenting an aspect fully exposed to the hottest rays of the sun, has been very successfully adapted to the culture of strawberries, which are from hence exhaustlessly supplied for the Dublin markets; and it is one of the most pleasing of the citizens' recreations, to resort to this spot, and partake of strawberries

and cream, while surrounded by the beautifully wooded scenery of the sloping valley. The *Church* of this village is ancient, and its 'ivy-mantled tower' has an imposing and venerable aspect. The view of Chapel-Izod from the park-gate of the Vice-regal domain, leading to the seat of Thomas Kemris, esq. from which the windings of the Liffey are seen to advantage, is picturesque in a high degree.

CLOGHRAH, five miles and a half N., boasts an extensive view from its *Church*, perched upon a lofty eminence.

CLONDALKIN, five miles S. W. The most remarkable object here is a *Round Tower*, 84 feet high, the conical top of which is perfect, and the whole in good preservation. The door is 12 feet from the ground. Dr. Ledwich, in his *Continuation of Grose's Antiquities* of this country, seems to entertain no doubt that this, as well as the round towers in general, was an erection of the Danes; and derives the name of the village from *St. Olave*, corrupted into Auley, Dun Auley, and Clondalkin—a derivation which appears sufficiently far-fetched. He farther informs us that Auliffe, the Ostman king of Dublin, about 865, built a palace at Clondalkin, which was afterwards destroyed by fire by the Irish; and that in the confusion thereby occasioned, 1000 of the principal Danes were slain: to revenge which injury, Auliffe, by an ambuscade, is said to have surprised a body of 2000 Irish, most of whom were slain or taken prisoners. Clondalkin was anciently an episcopal see, and Cathald, in 859, is mentioned as abbot and bishop of it. In the wars between the Irish and Ostmen, it was more than once demolished; particularly in the years 1071 and 1076. The *Church*, a small building with a square steeple, nearly adjoins the round tower, and is in good repair. Some remains of ancient *Stone-Crosses* exist in the church-yard.

CRUMLIN, two miles and a half S. W., was formerly

a fashionable outlet from the metropolis, but seems now much neglected. The *Church*, rebuilt in 1819, is a neat stone structure. This was one of the four ancient manors in the county of Dublin (the other three being Esker, Newcastle, and Tassagard) which, as being annexed to the crown, were called '*The King's Land*.' The Parliamentary army under Cromwell encamped on the common at Crumlin, and numerous stripes of the land were portioned out by him to his victorious soldiery.

DALKEY, a village seven miles and a quarter S. E., was formerly a place of much greater importance than at present, having been resorted to, with commercial views, by foreigners, so early as 1480; and we find that markets and fairs for their encouragement were at that period established. Here were also no less than seven *Castles*, erected for the protection of the goods of merchants and others, three of which are still in tolerable preservation; one forming part of a private house, another being occupied as a house and store, and the third as a forge. Of the other four, one was pulled down in 1769 for the sake of the materials, and remnants of the remaining three enter into the composition of modern cabins. At the extremity nearest the coast of a large common, on which the inhabitants of Dalkey claim the right of pasturage, are lead mines, which in the time of Rutty were extensively worked, but all operations are now discontinued. Opposite to them lies the *Island of Dalkey*, forming the south-eastern point of the bay of Dublin, and conspicuous from the sea by its martello tower. It contains about 18 acres of good marsh land for cattle. It was formerly dedicated to St. Benedict, and there are still to be seen on it the ruins of a church, and *Kistvaens*, or receptacles of human bones, are found near the shore. Tradition says, that the citizens of Dublin retired here when that place was visited by the great plague in 1575. Dalkey Island is separa-

ted from the main land by a channel called the *Sound of Dalkey*, 3650 feet long, 1000 feet wide at its south-east, and 700 feet wide at its north-west extremity, with a sunken rock near its centre, and a rocky shore on each side. This place had been surveyed, among others, as affording a proper site for an asylum harbour; and a plan was proposed by the committee of inland navigation, but, from the objections to which it was liable, it was abandoned. It was considered, however, in former times, a very safe and convenient harbour, where vessels lay secure in 10 fathoms water, protected from the north-east wind, and ready to sail at any hour. Hence the port of Dalkey was that used on state occasions. In 1538, Sir Edward Bellingham landed here, and proceeded to Dublin. In 1553, Sir Anthony St. Leger also landed here; and in 1558, the Earl of Sussex shipped his army from this port, and proceeded to oppose the Scotch invaders at the island of Raghery on the coast of Antrim.*

DONNYBROOK, two miles S. by E. is a pleasant village; its *Church* ancient, but commodious. The cotton manufactories established here, employ a considerable portion of its population. It is at the *Fair* held at this place, as is observed by Mr. Walsh, that the natural humour and peculiar character of the lower classes of the metropolis are best seen. It is kept on a green, regularly proclaimed, and always attended by police officers, whose interposition is indispensable to preserve the peace. This fair, which is for the sale of horses and black cattle, lasts a week; during which time, every amusement and gymnastic exercise peculiar to the Irish are in request; each day usually concluding with a pitched battle, in which much blood is spilled, and many heads broken, but rarely any life lost. The green is completely covered with tents, or with pipers, fiddlers, and dancers; and of late years mountebanks have also been introduced, together with shews of wild beasts,

* Whitelaw and Walsh, II. 1278.

&c. During the continuance of the fair, all the avenues leading to it present extraordinary spectacles, particularly in the evenings. Almost all the carriages which ordinarily ply at other parts of the town, now assemble here, and are crowded at all hours with company going to and from Donnybrook. The din and tumult is inconceivable; and from the union of the vociferation, laughter, quarrelling, and fighting of these turbulent cargoes, together with a similar medley of sounds from the foot passengers, a noise ascends that is heard for several miles in all directions. The attachment of the populace to this annual amusement, which occurs in August, is so great, that the Lord Mayor finds it necessary to proceed in person to Donnybrook at the expiration of the limited time, and, striking the tents, to compel the people to go home. "These annual scenes of turbulence and riot," Mr. W., however, remarks, "ought not to detract from the general good principles and quiet demeanour of the Dublin populace. They are even now by no means so prevalent as formerly, though not so much on account of any improvement in the morals of the people, as from that depression of spirits which is the consequence of the decline of the manufactures in the Liberty, and the state of abject misery which the lower classes at present suffer from the pressure of the times, but which it is hoped will not be of very long continuance."

The *Hospital for Incurables* at Donnybrook, formerly the Lock Hospital, is a praiseworthy institution; its object being to shield from mendicity, and shroud from public view, those miserable human beings, whose disgusting maladies baffle all the efforts of the healing art. Its situation is retired, but salubrious, and calculated to afford the unhappy inmates all the solace their state is susceptible of. There are 50 patients; in whose reception the degree of pain or hopelessness attached to the particular complaint, their age, and their former conduct in life, have been, as they continue to be with the governors,

especial considerations. Of these patients, a certain number are supported by particular subscriptions from individuals. About a mile from this village is seen the beautiful mansion of *Merville*, the seat of the Lord Chief Justice Downes: the whole southern road from hence to nearly the borders of the county, indeed, is studded with the seats of an opulent gentry.

DOOLOCK'S, ST., five miles and a half N. E. The *Church* of "St. Doulough, or St. Doulach," according to Dr. Ledwich, in his *Continuation of Grose* before quoted, remains a monument of the Danish style of architecture, the *most ancient* in this kingdom. It is a curious structure; with a double stone roof; the external one which covers the building, and that which divides the upper from the lower story. The whole is 48 feet long, by 18 wide. You enter this crypt by a small door at the south. Just at the entrance, the tomb of St. Doulach presents itself; the tomb occupies the entire room; it served as an altar, and seems designed for no other use than the separate admission of those who came to make their prayers and offerings to the saint. From this room, by stooping, you pass a narrow way, and enter the chapel. This is 22 feet by 12, and is lighted by three windows: the arches are pointed, the decorations Gothic; these, with the square tower, are later additions. The roof is of stone, and carried up like a wedge: so well bedded in mortar are the stones, that, after a lapse of many centuries, neither light nor water is transmitted. Near it is a holy well of great celebrity: it is within an octagon enclosure, adorned with emblematical frescô paintings: a bath is supplied from the well. The crypts at Cashel, Glendaloch, and Killaloe, are similar to St. Doulach's. Malachy O'Morgair, archbishop of Armagh, built in 1135, at the Abbey of Saul, two stone-roofed crypts, seven feet high, six long, and two and a half wide, with a small window.—St. Doulach is a corruption of St. Olave. He was born in 993, and died at the age of

35, so that the structure could not be older than the eleventh century. As the Danes possessed all the shore and land from Dublin to Howth, on the north side of the Liffey, they would naturally venerate a saint of their own country, and raise edifices to his honour. In Dublin, of which they were masters for many ages, there was St. Tullock's or Olave's-lane; in it were a cross, a well, and an oratory, sacred to him."

On this description we will only remark, that, admitting this church to have been built by the Danes, (a supposition that there is certainly no evidence to disprove) we have still considerable doubts, the reasons for which may appear in the following pages, as to the correctness of the doctrine, that the *Danish* style of architecture, is 'the most ancient in this kingdom.'

DRUMCONDRA, one mile and three quarters N. E., is a pleasant and cheerful-looking village; but contains fewer seats of gentlemen and the wealthier tradesmen, than are observed in contiguity with the southern and western outlets from the metropolis. The fine level road through this village, was formed early in 1817, with other improvements in the different avenues leading into Dublin, at the expense of nearly £19,000, raised by public subscription for the employment of the poor, in consequence of the extreme wetness of the season, and the scanty crops of the preceding year. Here, about 30 summers back, a number of tea-houses were erected for the recreation of the citizens, but met with little encouragement; and the city, extending in this direction, having since obliterated their gardens, amusements of this nature have expired in the vicinity of Dublin, not having been revived on any other spot. The village may now boast of an extensive building, adapted to a more useful purpose; namely, the education, upon Dr. Bell's plan, of 700 poor children of both sexes. This erection, which is constructed in the most permanent manner, has flues in the walls, instead of stoves, for

the purposes of warmth, in winter; and the ventilation in summer is equally complete. It consists of two floors, each 70 feet long by 35 broad; and, being inclined planes, the scholars sit so as to be always under the eye of the superintendants; while a visitor commands both the boys' and girls' school at one view. This seminary was founded in 1811, on a liberal bequest of £5000 by Miss Kellet, of Fordstown, in Meath, for that purpose. A Sunday-school for *young sweeps*, is held in its spacious rooms; and forms an institution, the most fanciful perhaps in its design, of all those in which the exuberant charity of Dublin has indulged.

The *Retreat*, also at this place, is a temporary asylum for the orphan and the widow, the unsheltered, the aged, and the infirm, under every species of undeserved distress. Here also the artisan, whose usual means of support are suspended, finds refuge and employment until enabled to resume his customary occupation. The benefits derived from this institution are very extensive; yet, humble in its pretensions, and inobtrusive of display, it is solely supported by the contributions of a few individuals. It was founded in 1814. A new *Fever Hospital*, for the accommodation of the northern inhabitants of the city, and others in that vicinity, was likewise commenced, in September, 1817, near the canal, at Drumcondra.

The *Church* of this village has been neatly modernized, and contains a handsome monument to the memory of Mr. Coghill, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last century; but the picturesque tourist will be more interested by the grave of the well known antiquary, Captain Francis Grose, F. R. S. whose graphic hand moulders into dust near its entrance. Coming to Ireland for the express purpose of investigating the antiquities of the country, and sketching its ruins, he was in the act of relating a humorous story at the house of Mr. Hone, of Dorset-street, Dublin, when he was struck

with a fit of apoplexy, and expired. He had written but seven pages of his intended work, which was afterwards completed and published by a gentlemen, whose learning at least will not admit of question, Dr. Ledwich.

DUNDRUM, three miles and three-quarters S., is considered a particularly salubrious place of residence, and is much resorted to by valetudinarians, both on account of the purity of its air, and the goats' whey to be had in its neighbourhood. It has therefore much improved in the appearance and number of its habitations within a very short period.

DUNLEARY, five miles and a quarter S. E., is a village which, from the new harbour erecting near it, has of late become of considerable interest; as the village itself, for the same reason, has increased greatly in extent and consequence. Indeed, from the pure air, dry soil, and bold coast of this vicinity, joined to its fine marine prospects, Dunleary has become generally preferred as a summer residence to places nearer Dublin; and the villas lately erected around, are distinguished by no common degree of neatness, and even elegance. The white martello towers, which line the whole southern sweep of the bay, are not unpleasing objects in the general view.

The first stone of *Dunleary Harbour* was laid by Lord Whitworth, on May the 31st, 1817. It consists of a pier, which, when finished, will extend 2800 feet into the sea, and comprise four parts; the first running directly from the shore to the distance of 1500 feet with a north-east bearing; the next making a slight return in a northward line of 500 feet; the third continuing north-west 500 feet, and the last 300 feet west. Its situation is about half a mile eastward of the little old pier of Dunleary, and immediately to the west of a rock, called the Codling Rock; while all to the westward of itself is a fine sand. Close to the pier-head, at low water, there will be a depth of 24 feet; conse-

quently, though the depth varies nearer the shore, a frigate of 36 guns, or an indiaman of 800 tons burden, might find this harbour a secure refuge even at the lowest springs; and at two hours flood, a man-of-war might enter with perfect safety. The stone of which the pier is constructing, is granite, brought from Dalkey Hill, two miles distant, by means of rail-ways. Its breadth at the base will exceed 200 feet, and that of the quay, which is intended to run along the top, will be 50; while a beacon will mark the extremity of the latter, and a parapet eight feet in height, defend it on the outside. The estimate of the expense sent up to parliament was £505,000; which it was enacted, should be defrayed by the imposition of certain duties upon the tonnage, &c. of all vessels entering the port of Dublin.

The objections with justice applied to Howth Harbour, cannot, it is easily seen, obtain with respect to this of Dunleary; as the anchorage here is good, the access easy, the water of sufficient depth, and the shelter, particularly if a western pier should be afterwards formed, ample. The importance of such an harbour, and even the positive necessity for its formation, must be obvious, when it is considered that the whole bay of Dublin presents not another place of security to vessels, in the event of their being confined within its limits by storms from sea, at times when the bar, from the shallowness of the water, may be rendered impassable.

DUNSINK, four miles N. W. Here is Trinity College *Observatory*, a very conspicuous object from its elevated site. It is founded on a solid limestone rock, of some miles in extent, which, near the building, rises to within six inches of the surface of the ground, and is so hard as to require to be blasted with gunpowder, for the ordinary uses of the farmer. The horizon is here very extensive at nearly all points, being without

interruption except on the south, where it is bounded by the Wicklow mountains, 15 miles distance, rising about a degree and a half. We extract the particulars relative to this structure, from Whitelaw and Walsh's History.

The principal front of the building is to the east. It presents a façade of two wings and a projecting centre, the latter surmounted by a dome. The principal apartments of the interior, devoted to the purposes of astronomy, are the equatorial and meridian rooms. The former is that surmounted by the dome; it overlooks every other part of the building, so as to command the entire range of the horizon. For this purpose, the dome is moveable, containing an aperture of two feet six inches wide, which opens six inches beyond the zenith, and, by means of a lever fixed in the wall, and applied to cogs projecting from the base of the dome, it is readily moved round, and the aperture directed to any part of the horizon. The equatorial instrument, with which the observations here are taken, rests upon a solid pillar of masonry, 16 feet square at the base, which rises from the rock below, and issues through the floor in the centre of the dome. The pillar is so constructed, that it stands insulated and unconnected with the floor or walls; and the instrument which rests on it, remains undisturbed by any motion of any part of the building: round this dome is a platform, which commands a most extensive and varied prospect. The meridian room stands on the west side of the building. It is intended for observations on the heavenly bodies passing the meridian, and on their meridian altitudes. It required, therefore, that uninterrupted view from north to south which it commands, and an attention to a variety of particulars which has been carefully paid. A mass of solid masonry, forming a broad cross, rises from the rock, and is totally unconnected with the walls. On one end is laid down a solid block of Portland stone,

nine feet two inches in length, three feet in breadth, and one foot four inches thick. This block supports the pillars of the transit instrument; these pillars are seven feet six inches in height, three feet in breadth at the base from north to south, and two feet six inches from east to west. They are formed each of a solid piece, and all effects arising from lime, mortar, and iron cramps, are avoided. Such minute attention has been paid to these particulars, that the blocks were selected as they lay beside each other in the quarry, and though they are heterogeneous in their parts, yet the relative portions at given altitudes are perfectly similar; thus the effects of unequal expansion or contraction, from variations of heat, cold, or moisture, are guarded against. The temperature of the pillars, at different heights, is shewn by thermometers; the tubes of which are bent at right angles, and their bulbs inserted into the stone surrounded with its dust. At the other extremity of this cross of masonry rise four pillars, for the support of the frame of the great vertical meridian circle; the verticle axis of which is placed on another block of Portland stone, and so placed as not to touch the pillars or floor. Besides these precautions to ensure the stability of the instrument, similar ones, no less judicious and necessary, are adopted to provide for equability of temperature, by admitting as free a passage of external air as is consistent with the safety of the instruments and the observer. A transit instrument of six feet in length, was early furnished for the observatory, but the circle, of eight feet diameter, without which it was of comparatively little use, was not finally completed until after 20 years had been occupied in its construction. This noble instrument consists of a circle supported in a frame, the latter turning on a vertical axis. The axis of the circle is a double cone four feet in length, and the pressure of the weight of the circle on it is relieved by an ingenious application of

friction wheels and the lever. The circle of brass is divided into intervals of five minutes, which are subdivided by micrometric microscopes into seconds and parts of a second. There are three microscopes, one opposite the lower part of the circle, a second opposite the right, and a third opposite the left extremity of the horizontal diameter. By these microscopes, the minute subdivisions of the circle, which are indistinct to the naked eye, are marked with the greatest accuracy. From the vast size of the instrument, and the great interval between the upper and lower parts, the temperatures above and below must occasionally differ; and hence, the relative positions of the points of suspension of the plumb-line, 10 feet long, which adjusts the vertical axis, and the point below, over which it passes, must be changed; to obviate this, which would be fatal to the accuracy of the observations, the point of suspension and the point below are on similar compound bars of brass and steel; and thus the distance of the plumb-line from the vertical axis remains always the same, as has been proved in a most satisfactory manner. The circle and the frame are also found to turn on their respective axes with equal steadiness.

This splendid and highly useful Observatory was founded by Dr. Francis Andrews, Provost of the College, who, dying in 1774, left by will a rent charge of £250 per annum, for supporting, and the sum of £3000 for erecting it, and furnishing the necessary instruments. Some years elapsed before the bequest took effect; but the Provost and Fellows, in the mean time, began the erection, and expended very considerably more than the sum bequeathed. The first Professor appointed, was Doctor Henry Usher, Senior Fellow of the College, under whose superintendence the building was completed, and the instruments ordered. He died in 1790, and was succeeded by Doctor Brinkley, the present Professor, who has much aided the students of astronomy in the college, by a treatise for their use, and

by a course of lectures delivered on the subject in Michaelmas term, in the Philosophy School.

FINGLASS, three miles N. "An Abbey," says Archdall, "was founded in this village in the early ages, and probably it owed its origin to ~~our~~ illustrious St. Patrick. It is now a parish church, and dedicated to St. Kenny."*

A tepid well of many reputed virtues was early known at *St. Margaret's*, near Finglass, about four miles north of Dublin. It was dedicated to St. Bridget, and enclosed by Plunket, of Dunsoghly Castle, with a battlemented wall; forming a pleasant bath, six yards long and three broad, which is still in good preservation. The temperature of the water is very low, being colder than the air in summer, but perceptibly warmer in winter, when it raises the thermometer to 51. It is said to contain lime, muriate of soda, nitrate of kali, and sulphur, but the latter in a much smaller proportion. The water, which is extremely pure, soft, and limpid, is frequently bottled and sent to Dublin; but the bath is seldom used. Finglass is farther memorable as a spot on which William III., when in Ireland, pitched his camp. A *Stone Cross*, now standing in its churchyard, affords a curious instance of the at least occasional accuracy of long established tradition: it having lain buried in this cemetery during a long series of years, and at last discovered only in consequence of directions given to search for it by the Rev. Mr. Walsh, Curate of this place, one of the Editors of the 'History of Dublin' repeatedly alluded to in our pages, who had the satisfaction to procure its restoration to the light, and that from the identical spot to which village anecdote had so long pointed.

GLASNEVIN, a romantic village, one mile and three-quarters N., has been long celebrated for its salubrity, and the mildness of its temperature; and though latterly

* Monast. Hibern. p. 215.

it may have derived its chief reputation from its grand national botanic garden, it should be known also that it has some pretensions to classic fame, if the names of Addison, Swift, Steele, Delany, Tickel, and Parnel, all of whom made its vicinity their constant or occasional residence, can confer such honour on the spot distinguished as that of their former abode. The botanic garden itself was formerly the demesne of the poet Tickel, and was purchased for £2000 from his representatives. One of the walks, a straight avenue of yew trees, was planted under the direction of his friend Addison, and is to this day called Addison's Walk; and tradition says, it was here Tickel composed his ballad of Colin and Lucy, commencing with "In Leinster famed for maidens fair," &c. The garden descending, either gradually or abruptly, to the river Tolka, (which forms on one side a sweeping boundary) on the opposite bank of the stream stood *Delville*, laid out by Delany, the friend of Swift, in a style then new to Ireland, being said by Cowper Walker to have been the first demesne in which 'the obdurate and straight line of the Dutch was softened into a curve, the terrace melted into the swelling bank, and the walks opened to catch the vicinal country.' But, notwithstanding this praise, it still retains much of the stiffness of the old style; the walks in right lines terminating in little porticoes, and the valleys being crossed by regular artificial mounds. In a temple on the most elevated point appear specimens of Mrs. Delany's* skill in painting; among which is a whole-length of St. Paul, in fresco, and above a medallion of the bust of *Stella*, esteemed an excellent likeness, but representing a face made up of sharp and disagreeable features, and conveying a totally unfavourable impression of the celebrated

* This highly accomplished lady was Dr. Delany's second wife; the widow of a Cornish gentleman, and daughter of Lord Lansdown. She excelled also in botany, and completed a *British Flora*, containing 980 plants.

original. On the frieze in front appears—*Fastigia despicit urbis*—an inscription attributed to Swift, and supposed to contain a punning allusion to this rural retreat, as seated on an eminence which literally looks down on the city. The house also displays many proofs of Mrs. Delany's talents and taste, in admirable imitations of Chinese paintings on crape, which cannot be distinguished from the originals; and the ceiling of the domestic chapel is ornamented with real shells, disposed in the manner of modelled stucco, with singular delicacy and beauty. The demesne is now in the occupation of J. K. Irwin, esq.

The once celebrated demesne of *Mitchel*, now the property of the Lord Bishop of Kildare, extends along the banks of the Tolka, opposite that once Tickel's. *Hampstead*, farther on, was the residence of Sir Richard Steele; and Parnel, who was vicar of Finglass, lived in the contiguous parish. Thus the remembrance of the men, who ennobled their own age, and whose writings have for nearly a century instructed or amused the public, is naturally associated with a visit to the pretty village of Glasnevin; whose name, derived from *Glasteneven*, 'the pleasant little field,' of itself records the amenity of its situation on the sloping banks of the Tolka. Though somewhat less noted than formerly, as the favourite retreat of the wealthy and refined, it continues to boast numerous elegant residences.

The *Botanic Garden* now extends over a portion of grounds not Tickel's, but which, having been added to the poet's demesne, has swelled its size to that of an area comprehending 30 English acres. Nothing can exceed the command of aspect, which the irregular beauty of the surface presents; and of which the planners of the garden, having ample room for every botanical purpose, have been careful to avail themselves; in no instance sacrificing taste to convenience, by disturbing such objects as contributed to the original beauty of the

grounds. Thus, the clumps of venerable elms, or other forest trees, which shaded the sloping steeps, or ran along the ridges, irregularly but picturesquely dividing the demesne, retain their primitive positions; and the ivied, imitative ruin of some venerable arch is still allowed to present an entrance to various compartments of the garden, rendered striking by the union of its effect with that of the sombre trees adjoining it. In the arrangement of the plants also, the hand of taste appears, embellishing the formal face of science. To avoid the irksome sameness of every plant following in its order, and labelled with its name, (a sameness which generally pervades botanic gardens,) each class is subdivided into smaller compartments, insulated in green swards, and communicating by pathways, the intervals being filled up with scattered shrubs; so that while the most regular classification is actually preserved, and all the series follow in such succession that the most minute can be immediately found, the whole presents an appearance of unstudied yet beautiful confusion.

The arrangement and contents of the entire grounds may be conceived from the following detail.

1. HORTUS LINNÆENSIS.

Garden laid out on the system of Linnæus.

Subdivided into

Plantæ Herbaceæ.—Herbaceous Division.

Fructicetum et Arboretum.—Shrub, Fruit, and Forest-tree Division.

2. HORTUS JUSSIEUENSIS.

Garden laid out on the system of Jussieu.

3. HORTUS HIBERNICUS.

Garden of Plants indigenous to Ireland.

4. HORTUS ESCULENTUS.

Kitchen Garden.

5. HORTUS MEDICUS.

Plants used in Medicine.

6. HORTUS PECUDARIUS.

Cattle Garden.

7. HORTUS RUSTICUS.

Plants used in Rural Economy.

Subdivided into

Gramina Vera.—Natural Grasses.*Gramina Artificiosa*.—Artificial Grasses.

8. HORTUS TINCTORIUS.

Plants for Dyers' use.

9. 10. PLANTÆ, *volubiles repentes et scandentes, fructuosæ et herbaceæ*.

Twiners, creepers, and climbers; shrubby and herbaceous.

11. PLANTÆ Saxatiles.

Rock Plants.

12. AQUARIUM, *lacustre et palustre*.

Aquatic and Marsh Plants.

13. CRYPTOGRAMIA.

Cryptogamies.

14. FLOWER GARDEN.

15. HOT-HOUSES and CONSERVATORIES for EXOTICS.

16. PROFESSOR'S HOUSE and LECTURE-ROOM.

17. ORNAMENTAL GROUNDS.

We shall mention what appears most deserving of notice under these heads.

The garden arranged according to the system of *Linnaeus* has not less than six acres assigned to it, whose position, as to the rest of the grounds, is central. The system of the great naturalist is illustrated to perfection: and the botanist may here, among so many thousand vegetable beings, instantly discover the individual he is in search of, see its relations with those that surround it, and at once appropriate its rank in the scale, and its link in the chain, of vegetation.

The garden arranged according to the method of

Jussieu, though small in comparison, suffices to convey a perfect understanding of the system of that justly eminent botanist.

The *Hortus Hibernicus* must still be considered far from complete, yet its collection amounts to nearly 1400 species; a proof of the spirit of enquiry which this noble establishment has excited, and of the zeal and assiduity with which the study of botany has, subsequently to its foundation, been pursued. Among the more remarkable plants in this division are the *Rosa Hibernica*, an entirely new species of rose, recently discovered in Ireland by Mr. Templeton; the *Erica Dabecia*, a beautiful heath, peculiar to a particular district of the island; and the *Arenaria Ciliata*, and *Turritis Alpina*, not supposed to be native to any part of the British European dominions, until the former was lately found in Sligo, and the latter in Conemara, by Mr. Mackay, of the Botanic Garden near Ball's Bridge, belonging to Trinity College.

The *Hortus Medicus* is arranged on the plan of Woodville's Medical Botany; and contains every plant, which, agreeably to modern opinions, possesses medical virtue.

In the *Cattle Garden*, arranged on the Linnæan system, "the farmer sees at once before him the results of long experience, and without the tedious and expensive test of his own practice, he may at once adapt his stock to his field, promote the growth of such vegetables as are useful, extirpate such as are injurious, and convert the hitherto despised weed into an useful and wholesome pasturage."

The benefits of the *Hortus Rusticus* are of a nature equally important; and, from the wonderful disposition of the soil of Ireland to grass, the researches here conducted acquire a character which may be called national. *White*, one of the gardeners attached to the institution, who appears to possess almost an intuitive

knowledge of botany and its nomenclature, since he derives no assistance from education, nor has the slightest acquaintance with the learned languages, has found 26 genera, and 84 species, of grasses, to be indigenous to his native island;* and, to complete the usefulness of this division, a distinct course of lectures on grasses are gratuitously delivered by the Professor, which never fail to be numerously attended.

The compartment for *Rock Plants* is not among the least remarkable; the mount on which they grow being entirely artificial, consisting of masses of rock selected at Howth for the mosses and lichens growing upon them, and brought from that insulated spot for the purpose of completing the treasures of this garden. These fragments being heaped as it were promiscuously, appear piled by nature in their present form; and the visitor, ascending by the spiral walks round the sides of the mount to its summit, is gratified by seeing every grey stone enlivened by its appropriate vegetation, while in every fissure of the rocks some Alpine plant has struck its roots, and issues forth to shade the mimic cliffs with its waving foliage. From the summit of this rocky mount, is obtained a pleasing view of the entire garden.

The addition of *Aquatic* and *Marsh Plants* has been comparatively recent. A sheet of water, 200 yards in length, but of irregular breadth, has been obtained by excavating the bank of the Tolka, the water of which of course inundates a site the surface of which is lower than its bed. The bosom of this lake is covered with aquatics, and its swampy shores with marsh plants; while verdant headlands projecting into the water, and the

* This singular and valuable man has been very properly patronized by the institution, under whose auspices he has prosecuted his discoveries in various parts of Ireland; and has also published a work on native grasses, not only of great utility in itself, but curious for the different appellations in Irish, which his knowledge of that language enabled him to affix to them.

high grounds which arise round the lake, (the latter being solely devoted to ornament) create a picturesque variety. American pines, and other natives of a transatlantic soil, flourish on the banks of this interesting aquarium.

The compartment for *Cryptogamies* is still very incomplete; but this arises from no want of zeal or industry in the conductors in this particular, but from the difficulty of procuring a situation adapted to their growth. The spot selected, being a bank which descends swiftly to the river, shaded with high trees to an actually gloomy degree, appears as adapted to the natural propensities of this tribe of plants as any that could be chosen; although the results of the labour bestowed on this division of the garden, have not been commensurate with the expectations originally formed.

The *Flower-garden* is not remarkable either for the beauty or variety of its productions: but the art of the florist is peculiar to himself, and little connected with the more systematic though less splendid rewards of genuine botany.

The *Conservatories* are of large dimensions, and nobly provided. The exotics reared in them are no less eminent for rarity than beauty: the *Cactus Grandiflora*, and the *Dombæia*, or *Pine of Norfolk Island*, are perhaps the most deserving of remark. The former is the flower elegantly apostrophised by Darwin:—

“Nymph, not for thee the radiant day returns;

“Nymph, not for thee the glowing solstice burns.”—

as this singular exotic, it is well known, blows only in the night, beginning to expand when the sun declines below the horizon, and to fade when he rises above it. A few years back, this nocturnal beauty attained to an extraordinary magnitude; the flower, when measured at midnight, being found to be two feet and a half in circumference. The magnificent *Dombæia*, which in its

native soil attains to the altitude of 200 feet, has here grown to such an height, as to have outstripped all its European competitors; and a conservatory has therefore been erected around it, at the expense of £500, with a dome, so constructed as to be capable of any degree of elevation to which it is possible the plant should rise—a magnificent idea, and calculated to render this specimen of natural grandeur unrivalled in our northern climes.

The *Professor's House*, which comprises the Lecture-Room, is that once the residence of Tickel. It is contiguous to the entrance recently erected in consequence of a donation of £700 from Mr. Pleasants, and which consists of handsome gates, connecting lodges, one of which is for the superintendant, and the other for his assistants. The house affords no subject for comment beyond the lecture-room, a large apartment, the frieze of which is ornamented with pipes, lyres, &c. decorations probably by the former poetical resident. The lectures, which are extremely well attended, are continued on three days in each week from May till September. They embrace every object of botanical research, which concerns the physician, the farmer, and the artist, besides the necessary scientific details; and specimens of every plant described are laid before the auditory. The gardens are also thrown open on two days in the week for every one to visit; it being only required, that those who avail themselves of this permission should enter their names in a book lying open on a desk in the lodge.

This grand ornament to the environs of the metropolis is the property of the Dublin Society; and was instituted by them, and is still supported, out of grants from parliament. The annual expense varies from £1500 to £2000; including salaries to the professor, superintendant, two assistants, 12 gardeners, six apprentices, rent, and casual expenditure for alterations, repairs, the purchase of plants, tools, &c. &c.

At Glasnevin are *Quarries* of that species of lime-stone called black-stone, or calp, a substance in some measure peculiar to the county of Dublin, and supposed to form the general sub-soil of the city. It is usually found under a bed of vegetable mould and layer of lime-stone gravel, and commences with black lime-stone; in some places separated by layers of argillaceous schist, which descends into calp by an imperceptible transition. Kirwan, in his *Elements of Mineralogy*, placed calp under the genus Argyl; but more accurate analyses have since discovered its proportion of that earth to be so comparatively small, that it cannot with propriety be classed under that generic character. The appearance of this stone in building is well suited to the graver styles of architecture; and it has been used with effect in Gothic structures, such as the chapel in the Castle-yard, noticed in *Excursion II.*, &c.—The Lord Bishop of Kildare has a noble mansion and demesne at Glasnevin.

IRISHTOWN, one mile and a half E., is a small bathing village. A stranger, who should proceed along the entire coast from Ringsend, and through this place to Sandymount, in the summer months, and at a particular time of the tide, would not be a little struck with the swarm of naked figures presented to his view, enjoying the luxury of a sea-bath on the beautiful sands which margin this portion of the bay. On these occasions, almost the whole population of Dublin, he might suppose, were seized with the bathing-mania; so great sometimes is the concourse, and so numerous the vehicles, both public and private, which roll along the road to the spot selected for courting the healthful waters. This recreation appears entered into with a peculiar zest by the citizens; and, indeed, from the noise and merriment that usually prevail, it would seem as though amusement were their primary object, and salubrity only a secondary. 20,000 people are estimated to bathe every tide in Dublin bay during the summer months, and many even continue the practice through the win-

ter. SANDYMOUNT, which is large and populous compared with Irishtown, has of late years been the principal resort of the city-bathers.

KILGOBBIN, six miles S. by E. Its antique *Castle* is a mass of ruins.

KILLEENY, eight miles S. E., is situated on the bay so called. The *Obelisk*, on the hill of the same name, commands the most extensive and charming prospects.

KILLESTER, an agreeable village, three miles N. E. Here is a handsome seat of Lord Viscount Newcomen, Banker in Dublin, son to the late Sir W. G. Newcomen, Bart. and who, on the demise of his mother, (a peeress in her own right) became possessed of his present title.

LUCAN, six miles and a half W., on the banks of the Liffey, is greatly frequented by the inhabitants of Dublin during the summer season, on account of its *medicinal springs*, of experienced efficacy in cutaneous and other disorders. Having been now for several years the resort of the gay and fashionable, a spacious hotel and range of lodging-houses have been erected here for their accommodation. The well, which is very superficial, being not more than 15 inches deep, contains about 80 gallons of water, and, when emptied, fills again in an hour. The water, though limpid, emits a peculiarly offensive odour, and the taste is equally disagreeable; effects caused by the sulphurated hydrogen gas with which it is strongly impregnated. The soil from which it issues is a lime-stone gravel, supposed to contain coal: it throws up a bluish scum to the surface, and after rain becomes whey-coloured. This sulphureous spring was discovered in the year 1758; but its situation being low, and immediately contiguous to the Liffey, it was constantly overflowed by that river, until Agmondisham Vesey, esq. on whose estate it was found, protected it by a wall. George Vesey, esq. the present proprietor, has a handsome seat here; and his

demesne, extending along the Liffey to Leixlip, (in the adjoining county of Kildare) affords a charming perambulation to the stranger who may be courteously admitted. Besides the hotel, there is a good inn established at Lucan. The *Iron Works* of this place, and its *Mills* for printing calicoes, deserve notice. Here is also a noble *Bridge* over the Liffey. The whole neighbourhood abounds with the species of stone called calp, described under, 'Glasnevin.'

The domain of *Woodlands*, near the Phoenix Park, formerly *Luttrelstown*, and the seat of Earl Carhampton, is of considerable extent, including upwards of 400 acres, Irish, and is now the property of Luke White, esq. M. P. for the county of Leitrim. The fine lawn in front of the house is bounded by rich woods, in which are many ridings; some leading through a romantic glen, where falls a stream over a rocky bed, and along the sides of declivities, at the bottom of which the Liffey is heard or seen at intervals. The whole forms a most picturesque and truly delightful retirement; to which its short distance from the capital is an additional recommendation.

MALAHIDE, six miles and a half N. E., is one of the neatest and most rural bathing-villages in the vicinity of the metropolis. The circumstances in which its celebrity in this respect originated, however, (the failure of the cotton-trade at this place, at Balbriggan, farther north, and at Prosperous, in Kildare) formed an epocha in the annals of misery, unparalleled perhaps in any other country. Parliament had liberally contributed to the expenses of the projectors and proprietors of the works at these places at their outset; but, refusing a second grant, they became insolvent; and crowds of artisans being suddenly dismissed from their employment, the several colonies which, a few hours prior to the event, had displayed such a picture of regular and thriving industry, exhibited scenes of the wildest confusion,

heart-rending distress, and dismay. But as the village erected at this spot was well built and laid out, and the situation beautiful and healthy, the houses are still kept in repair, and are generally occupied during the bathing season by families from Dublin.

The *Castle* of Malahide, the seat of R. W. Talbot, esq. is said to have been first built in the reign of Henry II. but to have received considerable repairs and additions in that of Edward IV. This edifice, large, irregular, and unequal in its height, stands upon a rising ground, is surrounded by fine timber, and commands a most extensive and beautiful prospect of the coast and country adjacent. The basement story, the whole of which is vaulted, and contains only the servant's offices, is entered by a low stone Gothic door: the rooms above are approached by spiral stone stairs, which lead into a striking Gothic apartment, lighted by a pointed window of stained glass. The wainscotting of this room is of Irish oak, divided into compartments ornamented with sculptures from Scripture history. The saloon, adjoining the latter room, is a spacious handsome apartment, fitted up in a light but inobtrusive style, and containing some good paintings, one of which is a portrait of Charles I. by Vandyke, and others are by Sir Peter Lely. There is besides a valuable little picture, once an altar-piece belonging to Mary, Queen of Scots, which represents the the Nativity, Adoration, and Circumcision, and was painted by Albert Durer. The cheerfulness of this, contrasted with the gloom of the former apartment, has been observed to produce a particularly pleasing effect. The original moat of the castle has become an ornamental slope; but the battlements, still remaining, form a fine front, terminated at the angles by circular towers.

Malahide was formerly a place of much consideration, and had several singular immunities and privileges annexed to it. It was granted to the Talbot family (under the name of *Mullagh-hide*, 'the headland

of the extremity of the tide') by Henry II. In 1372, Thomas Talbot was summoned to parliament by the title of Lord Talbot; and by a grant of Edward IV. bearing date March 8, 1475, besides the manorial privileges of receiving customs, holding courts leet and baron, &c. "Thomas Talbot is appointed high-admiral of the seas," with "full power and authority to hear and determine all trespasses, &c. by the tenants, or vassals, or other residents within the town of Mullagh-hide, in a court of admiralty, &c." In 1641, Thomas Talbot was outlawed for acting in the Irish rebellion; and the castle of Malahide, with 500 acres of land, was held for seven years by Miles Corbet, the regicide; during whose occupation of the estate, a dilapidated chapel still beside the edifice, is stated to have been unroofed, for the purpose of covering a barn with the materials; and tradition yet says, that, for the same period of time, a figure of the Virgin, which now forms part of the sculpture over the mantel-piece of the Gothic apartment described, removed from the unhallowed presence of the new owner, and did not re-appear in the compartment until the morning of his departure—since when she has been constantly visible. In allusion to the powers granted to the Talbot family, noticed above, the Castle is still very commonly styled *the Court of Malahide*. There is a curious *Well*, dedicated to the Virgin, and protected by a stone building, in the place; and near it are rather extensive *Quarries* of variously coloured lime-stone.

MALAHIDERT, five miles and three-quarters N. W. Here is a ruined *Church*; and in its vicinity another *Well*, of very pure water, also dedicated to the Virgin, and, equally with that just mentioned, revered by numbers of the populace.

MILLTOWN, two miles and a quarter S., gives the title of Earl to the family of Leeson. The new *Church* of Church-town, (in which parish Milltown is situated)

for whose site John Giffard, esq. gratuitously allotted a portion of his beautiful demesne, from its elevated situation, and lofty steeple, forms an imposing object for a considerable distance around. Whether seen with the Dublin mountains forming a back ground to the view, or from other points, graced and surrounded by the woods of *Mount Merrion*, the seat of the Earl of Pembroke, its effect is striking in a rather unusual degree.

MONKSTOWN, five miles and a half S. E., upon Dublin Bay. Here is a *Castle*; and the *Church* is a handsome modern edifice, frequented for public worship by all the gentry of the rich and populous vicinity. Here, according to Archdall, was a grange belonging to the Monks of the Priory dedicated to the Holy Trinity, in Dublin; from whence probably the appellation of the village.

MONTPELIER, four miles and a half S. E., is situated on an eminence, from which a delightful prospect is obtained.

OLD MERION, two miles and a half S. E. by S.; at which is a *Castle*.

PALMERSTOWN, three miles and three-quarters W., situated on the banks of the Liffey, appears decayed, but is said to be reviving, and likely again to flourish, in consequence of the extensive cotton-manufactory established here. It gives the title of Viscount to the family of Temple. Here is annually held a Horse-fair. Agreeably to Archdall, there was anciently a *Leper-house* near this place; but it was a foundation of which very little is now known. *Palmerstown House*, the noble mansion of Lord Donoughmore, adjoins the village; the majestic woods of his lordship's domain, crowning the heights which here impend over the Liffey, have a very fine effect; and the entire intervening space from hence to Lucan is almost exclusively occupied by *Seats*, which, also overlooking the windings of the river, and its well-planted valley beneath, are deservedly re-

marked for the beauty of their situation, as well as for the taste with which they are very frequently erected and decorated.

PORTMARNOCK, seven miles N. E., upon the Irish Sea, has many local beauties, and numerous residences of the opulent in its vicinity.

RAHENY, four miles and a half N. E., is called *Raheny in the Country*, to distinguish it from *Raheny on the Strand*; the latter being a pleasant little village on the Bay of Dublin. There are a number of handsome seats at Raheny, and in its vicinity.

RATHFARNHAM *Castle*, two miles and three-quarters S., was formerly the seat of the Marquis of Ely. Here, among numerous fine paintings and other objects of interest, was to be seen a portrait of a once celebrated personage in Dublin, *Dolly Munro*, who was for some time the reigning beauty of the metropolis, and had captivated, it was said, the heart of the then Viceroy; the picture is by Angelica Kauffman, but is more distinguished by the name of that artist, and the repute of Dolly's charms, than by any intrinsic excellence. Of the sensation created in Dublin by its subject, an idea may be formed from the description of a contemporary writer, who says: "Her stature was majestic, and her air and demeanour were nature itself. The peculiar splendour of her carriage was softened and subdued by the most affable condescension; and, as sensibility gave a lustre to her eye, so discretion gave security to her heart; and while her charms inspired universal rapture, the authority of her innocence regulated and restrained it. The softest roses that ever youth and modesty poured out on beauty, glowed on the lips of Dorothea; her cheeks wore the bloom of Hebe, and the purity of Diana was in her breast. Never did beauty appear so amiable, or virtue so adorned, as in this incomparable virgin."—Rathfarnham Castle has of late become nothing less than a *Dairy for Buttermilk!*

RATHMINES, a small village, one mile S. by W.; famous for the memorable defeat of the Marquis of Ormond, by the parliament's forces under Colonel Jones, which took place here in 1649.

RINGSEND, one mile and a half E., is noticed for its *Salt-Works*, and decayed appearance, in our first volume: its name has been derived from *Rinn-ann*, 'the point of the tide,' from the confluence of the waters of the Liffey and the Dodder which occurs at this village. The last-mentioned river, though of inconsequential size, has been noted from very early times as a turbulent and dangerous torrent; and various plans, therefore, have been projected for altering its course, by turning its channel to the low grounds between Irishtown and Sandymount; but none were ever carried into execution, and they are now rendered unnecessary by the secure embankments which have been formed to its old channel, and are found effectually to repress its violence. About 1649, Sir William Usher was drowned in crossing the current here, though many of his friends, both on foot and on horse-back, were beside him. Immediately afterwards, a stone bridge was erected over it; on which an odd circumstance occurred: the bridge was scarcely built, and a safe passage effected across the stream, when it suddenly altered its channel, leaving the bridge on dry ground and useless, "in which perverse course it continued," says Boate, "until perforce it was constrained to return to its old channel."* In 1802, an inundation destroyed the old bridge; upon which the present handsome and substantial one, of mountain granite, was erected, and is supposed capable of resisting any possible force of the water. At Ball's Bridge, about half a mile westward, is established an extensive and flourishing cotton-manufactory; and here is also the Botanic Garden of Trinity College, very inferior to that belonging to the Dublin

* Ch. VIII. p. 36.

Society, but still well worthy of the botanical traveller's inspection. This garden contains three and a half acres Irish, is of an irregular figure, and bounded on every side by a substantial wall 12 feet in height. There are distinct arrangements on the system of Linnaeus and Jussieu: the collections of grasses and medicinal plants are both very full; and there is a good conservatory, and small aquarium. In this neighbourhood also, until recent times, stood *Baginbun Castle*, a fortress of much former importance, a sketch and description of the ruins of which occur in Ledwich's *Continuation of Grose's Antiquities*.

SANTRY, three miles and a quarter N. The *Charter School*, for 60 girls, and the handsome old mansion and spacious demesne belonging to *Sir Compton Domville*, who has here made considerable improvements, are all that are worthy of notice in this village.

STILLORGAN, four miles and a quarter S. E. by S., may be visited for the fine view from its *Obelisk*: and *Newtown Park*, *Stillorgan Park*, and the mansion of the late Lord Viscount Fitzwilliam, now the property of the Earl of Pembroke, at *Mount Merrion*, in the same vicinity, are also worthy of the tourist's notice.

The market-town of SWORDS, seven miles N., deserves particular attention on account of its remains of former ages. Of these, the most remarkable is the *Round Tower*, 73 feet high, and, at the base, 55 feet in circumference. There is an apparent break in the architecture of this structure near the top; from which, and the cross surmounting its conical apex, an opinion has been entertained, that the superior portion is of much later date than the rest. The four apertures just beneath the cone, which may possibly have belonged to an upper story, answer to the four cardinal points of the compass; these, (which are almost always, if not invariably, seen when the building is sufficiently perfect to admit of it) are round-headed; but four smaller ones,

which may have lighted so many separate floors beneath, are square-shaped. The door-way, on the east side, is square at top, and narrower at that part than at the bottom: it, however, appears to have been long filled up, so that no entrance can be now obtained to the interior. In the instance of this tower, as in others, there is no *projecting* base; or, if there should be, it is buried beneath the surface of the earth: similarly to a specimen at Brechin, in Scotland, described by Mr. Gordon, it 'seems to shoot out of the ground like a tree.' Our engraved view of this interesting remnant of antiquity, will convey a very accurate idea to the reader of its most prominent features.

The *Church*, its *Steeple*, and the Round Tower, are so many detached buildings within the church-yard. The separation of the two former, is owing to the body having been recently rebuilt, by Mr. Johnson of Dublin, at a few yards distance from the old steeple, which was left standing. The age of the latter cannot be ascertained with any degree of precision; but it is evidently a later erection, by some centuries, than the round tower. The church consists of a choir only, like the chapel, built by the same architect, in the Castle-yard at Dublin; to which it bears a general resemblance, though it is infinitely less rich in decoration. The material is the same, being calpe, or Irish black stone. A noble window of stained glass has been lately given by the rector to this church, executed by Mr. Braddely of Dublin. In the church-yard are numerous small shapeless blocks of stone, placed, as for memorials, at the heads of the graves; and a minute but apparently very antique cross, whose inscription, (a seeming compartment for which remains,) is obliterated, served as a desk for the memoranda retained in these remarks.

The remains of the *Castle*, at this town, are sufficiently extensive to contain a gardener's ground within the

walls. We found the tenant obliging and communicative; and if the information he very readily afforded to our enquiries did not always wear the garb of authenticity, it never failed in the article of amusement. According to our cicerone, then, the ruins of this castle occupy the site of a more ancient *Abbey*, founded by St. Columbkille in the year 550;* and to St. Columbkille he also attributed the building of the Round Tower, in comparison with which, he seemed to consider the old church-steeple an erection of yesterday. Here, as he likewise informed us, the justly celebrated Irish king, Brien Boromhe, was 'prayed over' after his fall at the battle of Clontarf;† the ruins of a chapel, in which this ceremony was said to have been performed, being pointed out to us. A stone, inserted in the interior of the wall of this chapel, and containing a good sculpture of a cinquefoiled head to a Gothic arch, with a cross at top, was described as representing '*death* and the cross.' In the abbey, now become castellated for defensive purposes, it was added, that the first parliament which met in Ireland had been convened; marks of fire upon the walls were farther ascribed to a conflagration that occurred while it was sitting; a second conflagration was said to have taken place when the castle was besieged by Cromwell; and our informant concluded, by pointing out the ruins of a chapel at Moortown, in the vicinity, (which he said had been a '*chapel of ease*' to the Abbey,) having interlarded much of his narration with notices, that both his father and grandfather had held the garden, as he still held it, (through the

* Archdall says: "A sumptuous Monastery was founded here, A.D. 512, by the great St. Columb, who gave to it a Missal, written by himself, blessed the Well there, and placed St Finan Lobhair, or the Leper, over the Abbey. It is now a parish-church. There was also a Nunnery here, but of which very little is known."—*Monast. Hibern.* p. 256.

† Noticed by Archdall.

medium of a 'good middle-gentleman') of the Archbishop of Dublin.*

None of the buildings, once existing within the area of the walls, are remaining; if we except a small fragment near the entrance, which, having been converted into a modern dwelling, forms the gardener's abode. The form of the walls is irregular; five of the towers, which connected them at so many angles, yet exist, in a state more or less ruinous: we ascended that which is least so, and were rewarded for some slight degree of danger in the attempt, with a good prospect of the church, round tower, and surrounding country. Many of the battlements are yet perfect; and beneath a great part of them runs a platform for the archers; to whom the defence of the castle was in former days entrusted.

At TALLAGHT, five miles S. W. by S., an irregular straggling village, is the ancient and venerable-looking *Palace*, or former summer-residence, of the Archbishops of Dublin: its external air is that of little adornment, but rather of strength and durability. The reception-rooms, *en suite*, are spacious and lofty: but latterly the Archbishop has discontinued to reside here. The gardens are extensive, and in good order. At Tallaght, says Archdall, an abbey was founded in an early age, of which St. Mælrúan was the first bishop.

TASSAGÁRD, eight miles S. W. The *Church* of this village, now in ruins, is noticed by Archdall, as having been first founded by St. Mosacre.

Timon Castle, is situated on an eminence about four miles south-west of Dublin, and is one of these fortresses formerly attaching to every considerable landholder, and a complete chain of which at one time extended round the metropolis. If, as is probable, the interior

* "Here are some remains of a *Palace*, which was formerly the residence of the Archbishops of Dublin."—*Archdall Monast. Hibern.* p. 256.

building alone, divested of its bawn or out-work, constitutes the present Timon Castle, the ancient bawn must have been long demolished, as not a vestige of it, or of any species of exterior defence, is now discoverable.

TULLAGH, or TALLAGH, six miles and a quarter S. E. by S. Here are the ruins of a *Church*, which, as we are informed in Grose's *Antiquities*, was "founded by the Ostmen, and dedicated to their king and patron, St. Olave; (of which name, Tallagh, it is asserted, is an Hibernian corruption.) He was king of Norway, and being instructed in evangelical truths in England, he went from thence to Rouen, where he was baptized. On his return home, he carried with him some ecclesiastics to convert his subjects; but they refusing to listen to them, and being offended at the severe means he used for their conversion, expelled him his kingdom, and, at the instigation of Canute, he was murdered on the 29th of July, on which day the anniversary of his martyrdom is celebrated. He had a church in Dublin, the site of which is not known; and this of Tallagh, near Loughlinstown, seven miles from Dublin.

"Every circumstance relative to this edifice bespeaks its antiquity: its smallness, its semi-circular arches, and various crosses in its church-yard. One cross mounted on a pedestal has four perforations in its head, through which child-bed linen was drawn to secure easy delivery, and health to the infant. These holes were also used in matrimonial contracts among the Northerns settled here; the parties joining hands through them, and no engagement was thought more solemn or binding. Such promises in Scotland were called the promises of Odin. This superstitious appropriation of stones fully evinces its origin to be from the North, and derived from thence to us."

EXCURSION VIII.

From Dublin to Swords, as described; and through Turvey, Balruddery, Balbriggan, Drogheda, Dunleer, and Castle-Bellingham, to Dundalk; returning by Ardee, Carlanstown, Kells, Navan, and Dunshaughlin, to Dublin.

ALMOST all tourists, it is probable, prior to their examination of a country with their own eyes, form a confused but frequently vivid idea of its general features; an idea, obtained either from books of travels, from oral information, or, as commonly perhaps, from mental glimpses, whose sources are unknown, of its supposed appearances. But the descriptions of travellers, whether written or orally communicated, are to a proverb exaggerated—or, at the least, very frequently convey such general notions of a whole country as will in truth apply only to particular places—while the scenery of the imagination, in this as in other cases, is usually obliterated at the very outset of actual survey. Yet that some such general idea of a country, if it bear but a resemblance to the truth, may be usefully imbibed by the tourist, preparatory to his departure, cannot be denied; if it serve only as a scale, by which to measure the infinity of exceptions to it, that will occur on the right hand and on the left, at every stage of his journey, or as a focus, from which particular truths will diverge to their relative distances in the statistical view. Our ‘*Historical and Descriptive Sketch*,’ though it may prove of some slight service in this respect, necessarily, from its limits, and the variety of topics it embraced, gave but an imperfect account of the general *Face of the Country*, and was next to silent in regard to

its *Antiquities*—points on which an enlargement of our plan will now permit us somewhat to dilate, with candour, and, as we trust, not entirely without usefulness.

The science of statistics has been defined, “the knowledge of the present state of a country, with a view to its future improvement.” The accurate development of this species of knowledge is the avowed object of our labours; and if we have been led to entertain a zealous, however humble, ‘view to the improvement’ of the country undertaken to be described, we hope we shall at least be pardoned. No one will be so hardy as to assert that the *Face of the Country*, in Ireland, is unsusceptible of improvement; and, as the term improvement, and every idea connected with it by the British traveller, is necessarily relative, Ireland must be contrasted with Britain, and with itself, in order to obtain clear notions of its actual state, and of the means, if they should appear to be wanting, to accomplish its amelioration. Let us then first broadly remark, that though the face of this country is almost invariably less rich than that of England, yet that it rarely presents the continuity of uncultivated moorland so prevalent in Scotland, and not frequently the rude rocky grandeur which characterizes so considerable a portion of Wales; that the apparent monotony of its surface, though so generally cultured, is a consequence of the want of trees and hedge-rows rather than of exuberance in the cultivated productions of the soil; that its mountains, though inferior in altitude, and sublimity of outline, both to those of North Britain and Cambria, may boast a picturesque character, generally unknown to those of the two latter countries; that its coast views, particularly on the western shore, are altogether unequalled by those of the British island, and its lake scenery as superior in all the features, if not of the beautiful, of the sublime; while, last, though not least in the train of comparison, its *bogs*, let it be observed, as

regards their composition, extent, and use, as well as the singularity of their appearance, are without parallel in the other British dominions.

Dublin in itself presents a complete and striking contrast to the whole interior of the island. In England, many are the cities and principal towns, affording strong features of resemblance to its metropolis: their public buildings are not much inferior, and their habitations, whether designed for the wealthy or the poorer orders, upon an equality with those belonging to the same classes in London: and while, every where, traces of variety in the face of the soil are perceptible only in differences as to modes of culture, or diversities of produce, the abundance of trees, and the almost universal prevalence of enclosures decorated with hedges, give to the whole an appearance, with which no country in Europe can vie, of a well-ordered and richly cultivated garden. The mellowed contrasts presented to the eye of the traveller, are shades only of the same colouring in the picture: England is, in comparison perhaps with the world, all unison, beauty, wealth, comfort, and harmony.

But vainly do we look in Ireland, even in its very first provincial cities and towns, for public buildings to compare with the splendid architectural decorations of its capital; but few, very few, in proportion, are *their* mansions of the gentleman or the opulent trader; and the long avenue of mud cottages, by which we usually approach and quit them, exhibits a marked deterioration even in comparison with the wretched alleys and erections of Dublin; a deterioration, surpassed only by that of the rural cabins congregated in petty villages, or scattered, still more thickly than in England, over the surface of the country. Yet, true it is, the very converse of this sketch, in some most important points, is seen to obtain in detached spots, dispersed like blooming Edens on a wild, where the hand of some benefactor

to his species has reared the industrious and thriving manufacturing town, or the neat, white, comfortable village. The view as we approach, it may be noticed also, of a very considerable number of the towns, is striking in no common degree; though the illusion thereby created, being dispelled immediately upon their entrance, is subservient in the end to less of pleasure than disappointment. The seats of the gentry are, in many parts, sufficiently numerous; and if here, as in other countries, some are remarkable for a style of metreticious decoration, there are others, and not a few, where the principles of a correct taste evidently predominate.—Yet in this instance again, the immediate contiguity of the miserable hovels of the peasantry with many of these princely abodes, is hurtful both to the eye and to the feelings. The monotony of view, occasioned by the absence of foliage, particularly where the country is flat, may be readily supposed; yet, where it rises into gently swelling hills, the brightness of the verdure, and general luxuriance of the crops, unite to produce an effect of peculiarly softened beauty, to which the very frequent recurrence of water becomes an additional charm. We may take this opportunity of observing also, that, notwithstanding the prevailing rudeness in agricultural practices, there are, independent of lands managed upon the most excellent systems by some spirited and intelligent proprietors, large tracts of country most richly cropped, though the traces left by the plough describe lines which are any thing but straight, and though the hedges and ditches (where there are any) are in a state so different to what is technically called ‘clean’, that, to the eyes of numerous English agriculturists, they would appear infallible evidences of ‘bad farming.’ Indeed, the crops throughout the province of which we have commenced the description, exhibited at the period of our visit, a degree of luxuriance, to which we had witnessed nothing equal in our progress

across England; and if a Coke or a Curwen might have smiled at many features in the agricultural management, they would have been proud, we believe, to have produced as substantial proofs of their success.

As to all that regards a very great majority of the population, penury, discomfort, and the rudest habits of domestic life, are, alas! the prevailing attributes of poor Erin. There are few intelligent Irishmen, but will acknowledge this; nay, there are even many, (too many, as with submission we conceive) who not only seem pleased to insist upon the *present* barbarism of their poorer countrymen, but are as eager to contend for their utter barbarity in every *past* age—a subject, the consideration of which intimately connects itself with a view of the *Antiquities* of their country. Our opinions on several points illustrative of the ancient history of Ireland will speedily appear; and we will now, by the way, observe that, notwithstanding the wild and uncouth features so apparent in the dwellings and domestic conveniences of the poor in this island, the charge of general barbarism against them would appear to us highly calumnious: the Irish peasantry are indeed, as we have had abundant evidence to prove, far, very far, from the state properly described by that word: for if, as is probably true, the English poor are some centuries in advance of them as to modes of life, the Irish are as much their superiors in general quickness of capacity, in manners, and in *intelligence*.* The existing disposi-

* We particularly mark this latter word, because we have ourselves witnessed the surprise of most respectable and most intelligent Englishmen, at hearing it thus applied, though we have subsequently heard them confess the justice of the application. In truth, as the candid traveller will soon find himself constrained to admit, the poor Irishman is, compared with his equals in many other countries, conspicuously *intelligent*: mind, and a certain refinement of manner, are seen to emanate from his grey frieze garment, or his rags, to the full as often as coarseness and stupidity are observed to harbour beneath the more comfortable habiliments of the English rustic: in proof of which let us now only observe, (since we have already com-

tion among so many of the Irish to degrade their country at every period of its history, is not only singular, to say the least, in itself, but affords a curious illustration of the sway of fashion even in regard to theories of antiquities; as not very many years have passed away, since the *rage* among the inhabitants of the same island, was to magnify Erin of old, for the splendour of her learned, religious, political, and warlike institutions, as though she excelled in those particulars, as well as in the liberal arts, the most celebrated nations of antiquity. The oracles of that period were the native historians, whose day-dreams, though often extremely absurd, should obtain a portion of our respect, were it only for the ‘*amor patriæ*’ in which they so evidently originated: the oracle of more modern times, who fights and slays them all, is Dr. Ledwich; and he, entering the arena of antiquities with nearly the single object, as it should appear, of proving the ancient natives of his country to have been sunk into that utter state of barbarism, from which it was “impossible for them ever to emerge”—i. e. without the assistance of the “English or Normans”—employs his whole learning and genius in contending that buildings of “lime and stone” never entered into the conceptions of the Irish; that every scrap of antiquity, too old to be English, must be “Danish;” that the *Teaghmor*, or grand palace, of Tara, never existed but in the rhapsodies of the bards; and that St. Patrick himself, if ever he existed, was—he does not precisely inform us what—but, as we should judge from the context, “a river,” or “mountain!”

mented upon this point in our introduction to the first volume) that if the travelled Englishman has attended only to the replies of this class of persons to common enquiries upon the road, he must in very numerous instances recollect the *stare*, the *gape*, and the *grin*, as preludes to the wandering and unsatisfactory answer of the English clodpate, while he cannot fail to contrast with it the almost infallibly prompt, pertinent, and civil information afforded by the Irish countryman.

We will not charge the Doctor, (since neither justice nor politeness would warrant such a charge) with "ignorance and anility" as the ground of his assertions; though he has not scrupled to bestow them on a native writer, whose zeal, industry, and abilities, were as conspicuous as his own;* but we will venture to express, the hope, that, in the last-mentioned notable discovery, the Ledwich-mania attained its climax; and that henceforth Irishmen will adopt those medium conclusions, between the Doctor's and their old historians, relative to the antiquities of their island, which are not only the most honourable to their country's reputation, but, in the nature of things, since truth usually takes a middle path, the most likely to be consistent with her dictates. Our sentiments, in regard to particular antiquities, will accompany their description; but we deem it a necessary preliminary, as regards our English readers at least, to treat of them in this place in the form of a general view. With this design, as deservedly taking precedence in Irish Antiquities, the *Round Towers* will first come under consideration. Of these very singular edifices, one or two have been already noticed; Dr. Ledwich, in his usual strain, ascribes them one and all to the Danes; but, in common fairness, we shall give a summary of the doctrines of other authors on this head; and, if we subjoin an opinion of our own, it will be with deference to all who may be better informed. The origin, period of erection, and intended uses, of these towers, have all been very warmly contested; though, after all, the subject really appears one which is involved in almost impenetrable obscurity. They are not, however, so strictly peculiar to this country as Sir Richard Hoare was led to imagine, when he remarked that there were "none in England or Wales, and only two in Scotland;" as they are found, thinly scattered,

* The Rev. Mervyn Archdall: author of the '*Monasticon Hibernicum*.'

attached to the country churches of England, and are even frequent in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.* In Ireland, these erections vary much as to their distances from the several churches, though they are most commonly situated nearly at their north-west angle: in their respective altitudes and dimensions they are also unlike; as well as in the number of their floors, and in the height of their entrances from the ground. Their architecture is uniformly simple, but the masonry exceedingly substantial. Mr. Gordon's description of the Round Tower at Abernethy, in Scotland, would answer almost equally well for any one in Ireland. He says, "at Abernethy, the ancient capital of the Pictish nation, I could discover nothing except a stately hollow pillar, without a staircase, so that when I entered within, and looked upward, I could scarce forbear imagining myself at the bottom of a deep draw-well. It has only one door or entrance, facing the north, somewhat above the basis; the height of which is eight feet and a half, and the breadth two feet and a half. Towards the top are four windows, equidistant, and five feet nine inches in height, and two feet two inches in breadth, and each is supported by two small pillars. At the bottom are two rows of stones, projecting from beneath, which served for a basis, or pedestal. The whole height of the pillar is 75 feet; the external circumference at the base is 48, but diminishes somewhat towards the top, and the thickness of the wall is three feet and a half."—Giraldus Cambrensis, who wrote in 1185, distinctly calls these buildings '*turres ecclesiasticæ*,' and seems to ascribe their erection to the native Irish; while John Lynch, an Irish writer of the seventeenth century, asserts that they were erected by the Danes, about 838; in which opinion

* In these latter counties, it is but justice to Dr. Ledwich to remark, the universal tradition assigns them to the Danes: there are however several points of dissimilarity between them and the Irish round towers.

he is followed by Peter Walsh, who supposes them to have been at first used as watch-towers against the natives, and afterwards appropriated to holy uses, as steeple-houses, and belfries.—Dr. Molyneux, in 1727, unites with the two latter writers in attributing them to the Danes, but conceives them to have been erected solely as Bell Towers for calling the people of large districts to join in religious ordinances.—Mr. Harris thinks, that (like many similar pillars in eastern countries) they may have been designed for the reception of anchorite monks: and mentions the tradition that an anchorite lived at the top of one at Drumlahan, in Cavan, which retained the name of *Clock-Ancoire*, or the Stone of the Anchorite.—Dr. Smith, in his History of Cork, quotes an Irish manuscript, in which the use of these towers is said to have been to imprison penitents, and adds that they were called “*Inclusoria*, or *Arcti inclusorii ergastula*,” the prisons of narrow inclosure. The same author observes, in his History of Waterford, that “the Round Tower at Ardmore had been evidently used as a belfry, as a part of the oak beam remained from which the bell was suspended; and that two channels were cut in the sill of the door, where the rope came out; and thus the bell was sounded by the ringer, who stood below on the outside of the door-way.”—General Vallancey, however is disposed to assign them to a very remote period of antiquity; supposing them to have been built by the Old Irish, or *Aire Coti*, as he styles them, the primitive inhabitants of Britain and the western isles, who, after the religion of the Brahmins, are stated to have worshipped fire; observing that “the pyramidal flame seems to have given the idea of the Round Towers, which were conical, and ended in a point at top, both in Hindostan, and in Ireland.”—Upon a review of all these discordant opinions, Sir Richard Hoare expresses himself inclined to favour the opinion of Dr. Smith, grounded as it is upon the tradition of an

ancient Irish manuscript. "The figure of our Saviour on the cross," the Baronet remarks, "which is sculptured over the key-stone of the door-way to the Round Tower at Donaghmore, will at once overturn the ingenious system of General Vallancey, and prove these buildings to have been of *Christian*, not of *Pagan* origin." "I should suppose them," he continues, "to have been erected about the ninth century, and nearly at the same time with the stone-roofed chapels, at which period Ireland abounded with holy men, and was much resorted to as a seminary for learning and religion. * * * * *

I think we may also safely give the credit of their construction to the native Irish: that they were very numerous in former days, the modern survivors will amply testify; and that they were built after the *usual* method and plan of the country, ("*more patrio*") and had a connexion with the adjoining churches, being called "*turres ecclesiasticae*," the words of Giraldus will sufficiently prove."—

To these opinions of Sir Richard's, from which we by no means venture a general dissent, we may add that some of these towers are, it is probable, of even later erection; as may be instanced in that at Roscrea, in Tipperary, which, at the distance of 38 feet from the ground, has a *pointed*, or *Gothic* arch; a style of architecture, which, it is generally agreed, was not introduced into this country till the twelfth century. This arch, it is true, *may* have been a more modern addition to the original structure; while it is *possible* also, that *some* of the towers may claim a Pagan origin, though certainly not so high an antiquity as is ascribed to them by General Vallancey;* nor is even this latter notion,

* Since buildings of stone, compacted with lime-cement, were unknown in Gaul and Britain previously to the arrival of the Romans, it follows, nearly of course, that they were *then* equally unknown in Ireland, whose inhabitants were derived from the same parent stock, the Celts and the Belgæ; but it by no means follows, that buildings so constructed were altogether wanting in the latter country, *after* the establishment of the Romans in Britain; and, indeed, while suc-

we think, altogether inconsistent with the general accuracy of Sir Richard's conclusions; for though the majority of these edifices, it does appear likely, were erected for Christian purposes, about the ninth century, (and a few perhaps from *one* to *four* centuries previously, a period which will embrace the introduction of Christianity into the island,) yet their prototypes, of which some few *may* be still standing, might have been the pagan erections of fire-worshippers, (very strong fires, it is evident, having been burned in the interior of that at Drumbo, and others) but which had become belfries and penitentiaries in the hands of their Christian successors. Peculiar styles of building have, in other instances, prevailed through successive ages; and why may not the Round Towers of Ireland have been partly erected at a period extending nearly to the earliest, and partly at the latest supposed era? The obvious utility of appropriating such as were already erected as belfries, would be a sufficient inducement with the early Christians to rear others expressly for a similar purpose; and as, prior to the introduction of steeples, many of the edifices for public worship were still, probably, as well as the houses, of slight construction, it might become a custom with the ministers of religion to build them in the immediate vicinity of these towers, in order to profit by the latter in a double sense; namely, by using them to call the people to their devotions, and by retiring to them on occasions of danger, which, in times of intestine divisions, might be of frequent recurrence.—Indeed, were not defence a main object in the erection of some, (though this is a circumstance which hitherto has been little noticed) it is difficult to suggest a reason for placing

cessive arrivals of the expatriated Britons in Ireland, may be naturally supposed to have proved the means of introducing architecture, and the other arts, of Romanized Britain into the island, we have literally nothing beyond *assertions* in evidence of the contrary.

the entrance, in numerous cases, at very considerable heights, sometimes so much as 20 feet, from the ground; though, if we admit this idea, the reason is sufficiently obvious. We may add, that the churches now standing may naturally be supposed to occupy the sites of the primitive sacred edifices of the Christians; and that they have now generally the adjuncts of steeples, notwithstanding the previous existence of the round tower, may be accounted for by the parade of ecclesiastical architecture, which prevailed at the periods when the majority of these steeples are known to have been originally erected.

Earthen Works. These, according to Sir Richard Hoare, may be classed in the following order.

1. A mound of earth formed in the shape of a cone, and finishing in a point at top, encircled generally by a slight ditch.—I have no doubt (he continues) but these tumuli were originally raised for sepulchral uses, and by the early Celtic or Belgic tribes who inhabited Ireland. Many of these have been opened, and found to contain ashes, bones, urns, and other ornaments, in a great degree corresponding with those discovered by me in Wiltshire; a proof that the respective inhabitants of the age, when these mounds of earth were thrown up, made use of the same modes of burial. Some of these mounds are flat at top, but whether originally made so, or levelled in subsequent times by art, I will not pretend to decide; the surface however appears too small to have answered any military or civil purpose; and I am rather inclined to think that they are sepulchral.

2. A large circle, surrounded by a raised *agger* of earth, and a slight ditch.—Of similar works I observed several during my tour, and frequently there were two near to each other. The name of *Rath* may, I think, be more appropriately applied to these; as, from their dimensions, and slight elevation, they were calculated

for those conferences and meetings which the word literally implies; and the circumstance of finding two adjoining each other, seems to strengthen this supposition. (The term *Rath* has been thought to be a corruption from *Raad*, which, in the Danish language, signifies a *council*; and which is interpreted by Lhuyd, in his Irish-English Dictionary, a village, a prince's seat; also, an artificial mount or barrow.) These cannot be sepulchral, as no such elevated form is to be found amongst the great variety of barrows which the chalky downs of the west of England present.

3. High-raised circular tumulus, with more than one fosse. These are evidently military works; as are likewise

4. Those with ramparts and out-works.—The most common plan is a high-raised circular mound, with a square or oblong work attached to it, the whole surrounded by one or more ditches. This mode of fortification was adopted also in Wales; and from the circumstance related in the Chronicles of that country, of their frequent demolition, and their very speedy re-edification, I have reason to suppose that the buildings upon them were made of wood; otherwise they never could have been so quickly destroyed and restored. There is a greater uniformity in the military earthen works of Ireland, than in those of England and Wales; neither are they so complicated in their form, nor so stupendous in their proportions.*

Stone Crosses. On these Sir Richard remarks, “that they are neither of that light and taper form, nor elegant Gothic workmanship, by which the crosses, erected by our English monarch, Edward the First, to the memory of Eleanor, his queen, were so particularly distinguished: but though simple in their design, they are yet rich in sculpture. * * * In the second volume of Vallancey's Collectanea, are engravings of two

* Tour in Ireland, pp. 294. 5. 6.

Crosses standing in the church-yard of Castle Dermot, in the county of Kildare, with inscriptions said to be in the *Ogham* characters, and supposed to bear the date of the tenth century. It is difficult to fix the period of their construction, but I should imagine them coeval with the Round Tower, and the work of the ninth or tenth century; but I cannot think that the *Ogham* character (if such a character ever existed) was in use so late as the tenth century." A prevalent idea in Ireland, respecting these Crosses, is, that they were transmitted, at a very early period of christianity, to the 'Land of Saints,' sculptured as they are now seen, from Rome, by order of the Pope.—This, however, does not appear extremely likely, when it is recollected that the religion of Ireland, at the remote era alluded to, although it doubtless emanated *from*, had very early discontinued its connection *with* the Papal hierarchy.

Oratories and Chapels. The construction of these is almost uniformly simple: they are generally small, entirely of *stone*, but many of them of a date long prior, (as strong prejudices only, we think, will disallow) to the arrival of the *Danes*, to whom the modern doctrine ascribes all antique buildings of that material.

Cromlechs. Of these some mention has already been incidentally made. We will only add, that all our acquaintance with the Druids, whose religion preceded Christianity in all the British islands, points to their probable origin as derived from them.

The ruins of *Abbeys* and *Religious Houses*, the productions of Norman times, are usually inferior in interest to those of the sister kingdom: the *pointed style* of architecture, the beauty of which in Britain constitutes their chief attraction, appearing in Ireland to have been brought to an infinitely less perfect state.

The province of Leinster is the most level and best cultivated in the island. Dublin county, through the northern portion of which we are about to conduct the

reader, is said, in its bogs, heaths, rocky mountains, wild glens, sombre landscapes, and sea views, in connection with its cultured districts, to present a complete epitome of the country at large. Yet the tract through which we shall immediately travel, will afford but few instances of this diversity. The cottages by the wayside, as far as Swords, we found almost always comfortable looking; and few, as are the generality in Ireland, *without* chimneys. But many of the peasants, the females more particularly, were barefooted, even at this trifling distance from the capital. The aspect of the country all along would have deserved, in the fullest sense, the epithet of rich, had it but possessed the appendages of trees and hedge-rows. This part of our first journey to the north of Leinster having been performed in one of the Dublin *jaunting-cars*, we were subjected to the perpetual inconvenience of stopping to permit the passage of droves of cars, of a somewhat different description, (the agricultural) carrying hay and straw to the metropolis; these, without the least compunction, straggling over the otherwise sufficiently wide road, in such a manner as to allow of no alternative but that of waiting till they had passed. The 'rule of the road,' it should appear, is in truth a 'paradox' to Irish drivers; since on every direction-post we noticed conspicuous instructions to them to keep their proper side; notwithstanding which, we were subjected nearly every ten minutes to the delay complained of. We observed several Scotch carts, along with these agricultural cars, as well as farther in the interior; and with some confidence we anticipate, that the former will ere very long entirely supplant the latter for every purpose of husbandry. When, indeed, the rude and ill-adapted construction of the car is considered, it might appear wonderful to such as are not aware of the deep-rooted partiality every where existing to old practices, that it should yet obtain admirers in opposition to its lighter

and every way superior substitute. Whatever were the load, both car and cart were uniformly drawn by a single horse.

TURVEY, the first village after passing Swords, is wholly uninteresting to the general tourist. But,

Lusk, on our right, is well worthy the notice of the antiquary, on account of the curious architecture of its *Church*; which consists of two long aisles, separated by a screen of seven arches; and at its west end is a remarkable square steeple, with round towers connected with three of its angles, whilst opposite to the fourth is a detached round tower, in very good preservation, and loftier than the others. The east end only of this structure is at present appropriated to the purposes of public worship. The walls of a church, said to have been part of an ancient nunnery, are mentioned here by Archdall.

Between RUSH, yet more to the right, celebrated for its *Cured Ling*, and SKERRIES, (both on the coast, and pretty considerable fishing-towns,) there are large rocks, interesting to the mineralogist, of the *Lapis Hibernicus*, or Irish slate, the vitriolic particles of which are seen to effloresce in various places. They are remarkable also for producing great quantities of seaweed, from which *kelp* is made. Near are several elegant seats and villas: *Rush House*, amongst others, the seat of Lady Palmer, boasts a noble collection of paintings by the old masters, well worthy to be inspected by the eye of taste. *St. Patrick's Isle*, almost opposite Skerries, is said to be the spot on which the renowned saint of that name first landed; and the church upon the isle, the ruins of which still exist, is recorded to have been founded by him. At that period, tradition farther says, the isle was separated from the main land by a trifling stream only at spring tides, and that it was at other times accessible on foot; but the interval is now impassable at the lowest ebb of the tide,

and in consequence the sacred pile has been suffered to fall into ruin. For, this church having been anciently a place of worship for the inhabitants of Skerries, the want of communication with it has occasioned the erection of another edifice at the latter place, called St. Patrick's New Church. On this island a priory also, the ruins of which are still visible, was founded by Sitric, the son of Murchard, between the years 1213 and 1228; but, the situation being found inconvenient, it was removed by Henry, Archbishop of Dublin, to *Holm Patrick*, a village contiguous to Skerries.

To GRACE DIEU, three miles N. of Swords, agreeably to Archdall, "about the year 1190, John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, removed the nunnery from Lusk, and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary on her Nativity: he filled it with regular canonesses following the rule of St. Augustin, and granted an endowment to it. Part of the ruins yet remain; in which is a head carved in stone, which shews that the building of Grace Dieu, though not spacious, was by no means a work of an inferior order. The ancient road leading from this nunnery to Swords, formerly a town of note, is still to be seen, paved with a reddish stone, whereon are several small bridges."*

Passing the *Man of War*, an inn much frequented on this road, and through the decayed village of *Balruddery*, we reach, two miles from the last-mentioned place,

BALBRIGGAN. This is a small port, (principally supported by its fishery,) which owes its origin to the late Baron Hamilton: the cotton-manufactory, stated to have failed here, has been converted into flour and corn stores. Within the pier, which was built under the eye of the Baron, ships, bringing coal and culm from Wales, &c., some of 200 tons burden, can lay their broadsides, and unload at the quay.

Baldungan Castle, near this coast, is now a mass of

* Monast. Hibern. p. 216.

ruins, having been taken and dismantled by Cromwell; yet enough remains to give interest to the legendary tales connected with it, which say, that it once contained a friary and nunnery within its walls, whose inmates, during the troubles of early times, here sought and found a sure protection. Its architecture, of the thirteenth century, combines the domestic with the castellated form, in the then usual style of a baronial residence. Two large towers at the west end, with a parapet in front covering the passage between them, the whole richly mantled with ivy, are yet remaining; besides which, the chapel and cemetery, with many of the interior apartments, may be traced in the ruins. The situation must have been a delightful one to its ancient owners, as it commands a widely-extended prospect in every direction.

NAUL, on our left, bordering on the county of Meath, has many charms for the traveller of taste in its very beautiful *Glen*, whose romantic rocks, cascade, and rugged caves, are finely contrasted by the picturesque ruins of its antique *Castle*. Though a visit to this spot will occasion a trifling detour from the main road, we recommend its inspection to every tourist. It will bear comparison even with some of the romantic scenery in the far-famed county of Wicklow.

BRENNANSTOWN, in the same direction, is remarkable for a *Cromlech*, consisting of six upright stones, supporting one placed horizontally, the latter of which is 14 feet long, by 12 broad: it is not the least curious among these very remote remains.

At the distance of a mile and a half N. W. from Balbriggan, is GORMANSTOWN, remarkable only as it contains the ancient *Seat* of Lord Gormanstown. Having now entered the county of Meath, it is incumbent on us to remark, that for its mansions of the nobility and opulent gentry, as well as for the general style of its cultivation, it may vie with any other in Ireland: we

are concerned to be unable to add, that the comforts of the cotter-inhabitants are commensurate with these signs of apparently general prosperity; although, perhaps, as many *exceptions* to the usual wretchedness of the lower classes are here to be met with as in most districts of the island. The surface is most commonly flat; intersected by the rivers Boyne, (which divides the county into nearly two equal parts) Blackwater, Nanny-water, Rye-water, and Moynally.

DULEEK, a few miles westward of our road, is pleasantly situated on the Nanny-water. This now decayed town was an episcopal see for many ages; and the ruined *Abbey-Church*, with its venerable and majestic tower, is, with justice perhaps, supposed to have been the first stone edifice, of its kind, erected in Ireland. St. Cianan, or Kenan, is said to have founded the abbey about 488: it was frequently plundered by the Danes, as well as by the Irish in their intestine wars; notwithstanding which, it contained great riches at the Dissolution, and was possessed of a very large property in lands and tithes. The bodies of Brian Boromhe, and Morogh, his son, both slain at the battle of Clontarf, were brought by the monks of Swords to this Abbey, and from thence conveyed to Louth by those of St. Cianan. The annals of the Four Masters, at the year 1169, remark, that this church of Duleek was a *Damliag*, or stone building; very properly remarked as a proof that such were then not *common* in Ireland. *Athcarne Castle*, romantically situated in the midst of trees, not far from the Nanny-water, which flows by its north side, is a large square building, defended at the angles by towers; the whole in good preservation. To the west, adjoining the main building, are offices, which appear to be of the same date. The principal entrance, which is on the south side, is through a pointed arch. In the upper corners of a defaced coat of arms, cut on a square stone, are the letters

W. B. I. D.

The date is 1590. The ditch, which surrounded the castle, and the walls, the latter of great thickness, must have rendered it capable of sustaining a protracted siege, particularly as the edifice is not commanded by any eminences in its immediate vicinity.

The city of DROGHEDA, on the Boyne, is for the most part in the county of Louth, but is also a county in itself. The approach to this place is somewhat striking; the river, with the vessels lying in it, and the bridge, forming the foreground in the view; while the city, with the house of the Catholic Primate of Ireland, a conspicuous object, rise up the slope behind it. The harbour is good, and the Boyne navigable as high as the bridge. Drogheda sends one member to Parliament, who is elected by the freemen and freeholders. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, a town clerk, mayor of the staple, two justices of the peace, two coroners, and a law agent. It gives the titles of marquis, earl, and viscount, to the family of Moore.

This city is large, and respectable-looking, being built with tolerable regularity. It is encompassed with high but antiquated walls, pierced by four gates; but these defences, were they even modern and in a perfect state, would appear to be of little importance to its safety, since the place is entirely commanded by the adjacent eminences. The extension and improvements of Drogheda have been rapid within the last few years; the principal street, as well as the new houses on the quay, are substantial and handsome; and should the corporation, whose revenues are ample, succeed in permanently deepening the bed of the river, so that vessels of larger burden might lade and unlade at the quay, the commercial benefits derived would doubtless be considerable. The *Tholsel* here is a handsome edifice, as is the *Corn-Market*. There are several more than commonly opulent residents, and the society is generally agreeable.

The parishes are two; St. Peter's and St. Mary's.

The *Church* of the former is elegantly finished, but of that of the latter little more than the bare walls is remaining. A chapel, formed probably out of its early ruins, stands in the church-yard, (as do the mouldering remnants of a castle) and is adapted for divine worship by the parishioners. The monastic institutions, prior to the Reformation, were numerous:* attached to the catholic population, there are still nine chapels, two friaries, and two nunneries.

About 600 yards from St. Mary's church, is *Beoric Mount*, a large artificial tumulus, from whence, tradition says, Cromwell employed himself in battering the church; but that commander, it has been justly observed, had other business in Ireland than that of wreaking his vengeance upon religious structures. A thin *Blue Stone*, near this place, which is shaped like

* We are told that a Priory, for Canons Regular, following the rule of St. Augustin, was founded here, but are totally in the dark as to the period of its erection.—St. Mary's Hospital, situate without the west gate of the city, was founded by Ursus de Swe-mele: at the suppression of monasteries, this house and its possessions were granted to the mayor of Drogheda.—St. Lawrence's Priory, situate near the ancient gate of that name, and said to owe its foundation to the mayor and citizens of Drogheda, was likewise, on the Suppression, granted to them.—A Dominican Friary was founded, under the invocation of St. Mary Magdalene, in the north part of the town, by Lucas de Netterville, Archbishop of Armagh, who began the erection A. D. 1224.—A Grey Friary is said to have been founded in the year 1240, near the north side of the river Boyne; but Friar Wadding places its foundation 30 years later.—An Augustinian Friary was founded here in the reign of king Edward the First: at the Suppression, it was granted to the mayor and citizens of Drogheda.—Mention is also made of the houses of St. James and St. Bennet here.—On the Meath side of the river, we find the Priory and Hospital of St. John, of the order of Cross-bearers; to which Walter de Lacie (if not the founder) was at least a principal benefactor, in the reign of King John. This priory, or hospital, belonged to the grand Priory of Kilmainham, near Dublin.—The Carmelite Friary, also situated on the Meath side of the river, was founded by the inhabitants of Drogheda, for Carmelites or White Friars, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin. Part of this friary was afterwards repaired for the service of the parish. *Archdall's Monast. Hibern. pp. 452. et seq. and p. 530.*

the bottom of a boat, is also firmly believed by numbers of the vulgar to have been the identical conveyance of St. Denis to this island from France.

In 1641, Drogheda, then called *Tredagh*, suffered much by a siege it sustained from the rebels of that disastrous period; but who finally, however, retreated with precipitation. In 1649, the relentless spirit of Cromwell subjected it to a still greater calamity. The utmost pains had been taken to strengthen and furnish this place for a vigorous and protracted defence; but Cromwell, actuated by the fierce and steady determination which characterized him, and sensible of the advantage of prompt and striking execution, was not to be impeded by any ordinary obstacle. Disdaining the regular approaches and forms of a siege, he thundered furiously for two days against the walls with his great guns, and having effected a breach, issued orders for a general assault. The desperate valour of the assailants was encountered by the desperate valour of the garrison, so that with appalling havoc on both sides the troops of Cromwell were twice repulsed. But, determined on conquest, he led his troops in person a third time to the breach, and with an intrepid, steady, and impetuous charge, bearing down all opposition, gained possession of the ground. A scene more tremendous, if possible, ensued; the deliberate carnage of the garrison, officers and privates, and Romish ecclesiastics, found in the place; a carnage commanded by Cromwell, and reluctantly executed by the soldiery. From this butchery, which was continued for five days, a few escaped in disguise, and about 30 were spared; but these were transported as slaves to Barbadoes. To strike terror into his opponents appears to have been the only object of the ferocious general in issuing his orders for the slaughter: and in this he appears to have succeeded; for so panic-struck were the garrisons of the neighbouring towns of Trim and Dundalk, by the tidings which quickly reached

them of the event, that they fled precipitately, without attempting so much as a show of resistance.

The tourist should by no means quit Drogheda, without making an excursion along the north bank of the Boyne, which he may advantageously extend as far as Slane. The views, naturally picturesque, are embellished with numerous remains of ancient castles and abbeys; and the appearance of the river itself, although its general character is monotonous, derives a degree of beauty from the number of aquatic plants with which it abounds. Two miles from the city is the *Ford*, where William III. passed the river to encounter the forces of the weak and irresolute James: a rock at the identical spot forms an appropriate base for the obelisk erected upon it, to perpetuate the memory of that great event. The gallant Duke Schomberg, to whom a tablet is erected in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, fell in this battle, by a volley fired, it is said, by his own men, on perceiving him surrounded by a party of the enemy, who had been previously mistaken for friends; the error not being discovered, until he was actually a prisoner in their hands, the rash revenge of his followers thus became the cause of his destruction. About the same time fell George Walker, the brave defender of Derry, whose military ardour had unnecessarily carried him into this battle. The view of this 'well foughten' field, from an adjacent eminence which commands it, is extremely fine; here the vale is seen losing itself amidst bold acclivities; while the commemorative obelisk, a noble pillar, most judiciously placed on a rising ground, appears to the greatest advantage.

MONASTERBOICE, about a mile farther westward, is in itself an uninteresting spot; and the monks, who erected the *Abbey*, whose ruins are yet to be seen here, certainly did not shew their usual good taste and skill in the choice of its site. Speaking of these monastic remains, Mr. Archdall says, "Here we find the ruins of

two small *Chapels*; and although nothing remarkable is to be seen in their structure, yet do they evince the great antiquity of this foundation. (He has previously observed that the founder was St. Bute, or Boetius, who died in 521, and from whom the monastery was anciently called *Monaster-Bute*.) Near the west end of one of these chapels is a *Round Tower*, 110 feet high, beautifully diminishing in the manner of a Tuscan pillar, from a base of 18 feet; its circumference is 17 yards; and the wall, built of a slaty stone, of which the surrounding hills are composed, is three feet six inches thick; the door is five feet six inches in height, 22 inches in width, and six feet from the present level of the ground; it is arched, and built of free stone, as are the windows of the chapels; in the inside, the diameter is nine feet; and above the door it is divided into five stories, by rings of stones slightly projecting. There are two large crosses on the south side of the chapels; the principal one is said to be of an entire stone, and is called *St. Boyne's Cross*, which is the most ancient religious relique now extant in Ireland: the ornamental figures on it are rudely engraven, and at once shew the uncivilized age in which they were executed; there is also an inscription on this cross, in the *Old Irish* character, equally inelegant with the figures; some letters of which appear, and evidently form the word MUREDACH, who was for some time king of Ireland, and died A. D. 534, about 100 years after the arrival of Saint Patrick. This Abbey continues to be a burial-place of note."

It was in reference to the above-quoted account of St. Boyne's Cross, that Dr. Ledwich so warmly remarked upon the "ignorance and anility that could call it the most ancient relique in Ireland, when the word Muredach is said to be legible on it. For if Muredach lived A. D. 534, neither the letters nor language of that time would be intelligible now, as the impossibility of decyphering the Brehon laws, of a much later date,

abundantly proves. * * * Three Anglo-Saxon coins, with many more, were found by a man, who was digging a grave near St. Boyne's Cross: two have the words Edmund Rex, the other Edelstan. It is probable the Ostmen, (or *Danes*) who inhabited Ireland in great numbers, acquired these in their predatory incursions into the Saxon heptarchy, or that they were procured in the way of trade. Let this be as it may, the sculpture seems to belong to the ninth or tenth century, and the coins support this opinion."—Leaving the farther discussion of this point to more zealous antiquaries, with the single remark, that we cannot perceive the impropriety of attributing this and others of the stone crosses to the same era, and the same *native* artists, who produced the stone-roofed chapels, and round towers, we beg to recommend the ruins at Monasterboice, collectively, to the tourist, as a most singular and interesting groupe; comprising, as they do, within the compass of a small church-yard, two perfect stone crosses, and one imperfect, a large round tower, and the shells of two chapels. The two perfect crosses are both of elaborate design and sculpture. Round the base of the inferior in altitude, *St. Patrick's*, (of which a view is given) is an inscription, beginning, as it appeared to Sir Richard Hoare, with the words

O DOMINE ...

And the Baronet appropriately observes, that 'neither can the sister kingdom of England, nor the principality of Wales, produce their equals.' The summit of the round tower is in great decay.

About a mile and a half from the banks of the river, in a valley five miles west of Drogheda, are the not less interesting ruins of the once stately *Abbey of Mellifont*; from the modern inspection of which, it has been observed, we neither can nor ought to judge of their former situation and appearance; since both nature and art have been robbed by time of their respective deco-

rations. The site of this renowned abbey, however forbidding in its present state, well answered the situation that was usually selected by the monastic orders; and, before the valley was stripped of its sylvan honours, would have formed a most pleasing religious retirement.

Fragments of a chapel, a few arches and pillars, with four sides of an octagonal baptistery, the only present remains, are calculated to convey but a faint idea of the original state of this magnificent pile. The entrance to the chapel was by a 'superb Gothic arch, exquisitely finished,' of which a plate and description occurs in Wright's 'Louthiana,' published 1758; but this is not now to be seen, having, as Sir Richard Hoare was informed by an Irish gentleman, '*been played for as a stake at piquet, and lost.*' From the remains of the groined roof and windows, this chapel seems to have been executed in a good style. The baptistery, mentioned by mistake as a bath in the Louthiana, appears to have been built of a light grey freestone.

Mellifont Abbey was founded in 1142 by O'Carrol, prince of Uriel, for Cisterians; St. Bernard furnishing the monks from his own abbey of Clairvaux, in France. The fame of St. Bernard, and the reputed sanctity of the monks, soon procured it ample possessions, and a seat for the abbot in parliament. In 1192, Devorgilla, the wife of O' Rourke, prince of Breffny, whose ravishment by Mac Morrough, king of Leinster, afforded Henry II. a plea for his subjugation of the island to the British crown, died and was interred here. On the suppression of the monastery in 1540, its vast possessions were conferred on Sir Edward Moore, ancestor to the present Marquis of Drogheda, who had greatly distinguished himself in the wars between the restless natives and the inhabitants of the pale. Sir Edward made Mellifont his principal residence, strongly fortified it, and built a castle for additional security. But in 1641, the Irish sat

down before it with a body of 1300 infantry; to oppose whom, there were but 24 musqueteers and 15 horse-men in the place: notwithstanding this disparity, however, the besieged made a most vigorous defence, until their ammunition was exhausted; when they cut their way through the Irish camp to Drogheda, with the exception of 11 of their number, whom their enemies sacrificed to the *manes* of 120 of their own men, killed in the contest.

Before we reach the village of NEW GRANGE, we have again entered the county of Meath. At this village is a most singular and extensive *Tumulus*, in outward appearance very similar to those met with on the chalky hills of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire; but differing from them in having been encircled by enormous unhewn upright stones, some of which are yet remaining. It differs also from those seen in the west of England, in containing beneath its verdant surface a subterraneous temple,* constructed of the rudest materials and certainly of very great antiquity. The discovery of this most singular perhaps among the antiquities of Ireland, was made about the year 1699, by a Mr. Campbell, who resided at the village; and who, observing stones under the green sod, carried many of them away, and at length arrived at a broad flat stone covering the mouth of a gallery, the dimensions of which are thus given by Dr. Ledwich. "At the entrance, it is three feet wide and two high: at 13 feet from the entrance, it is but two feet two inches wide. The length of the gallery, from its mouth to the beginning of the dome, is 62 feet; from thence to the upper part of the dome, 11 feet six inches. The cave, (or dome) with the gallery, gives *the exact figure of a cross*: the length, between the arms of the cross, is 20 feet. The dome forms an octagon, 20 feet high, with an area of about

* *Cromlechs* we are told by Sir R. C. Hoare, are *sometimes* found beneath the surface of the barrows in parts of Somersetshire and Wiltshire, where stone abounds.

17: it is composed of long flat stones, the upper projecting a little below, (beyond) the lower, and closed in and capped with a flat flag."

Sir Richard Hoare's observations on this building are so comprehensive and judicious, that we have great pleasure in collecting and transcribing them, in preference to submitting our own remarks. The area beneath the dome, he says, resembles the upper part of a cross, as the avenue does the stem: the avenue, leading to the area, is formed by large upright stones, pitched perpendicularly in a row on each side, and supporting the flat stones that form the roof; this covering rises gradually till it reaches the dome, which is not (like our modern cupolas) formed by key-stones converging to a centre, but after the manner of our stair-cases, each long stone projecting a little beyond the end of that immediately beneath it; and a large flat stone making the cove of the centre. The tallest of the stones forming the *adit* to the *sacellum*, is seven feet six inches in height: its companion, on the opposite side, about seven feet. Three recesses (the head and arms of the cross) open from the area, one facing the avenue or gallery, and one on each side: in the one to the right is a large stone vase, which antiquaries have denominated a *rock basin*, within the excavated part of which are two circular cavities, each about the size of a child's head. Several of the rude stones composing this recess, are decorated with a variety of devices, circular, zigzag, and diamond-shaped: some of this latter pattern seem to bear the marks of superior workmanship, the squares being indented. Many of the stones on each side of the *adit* have similar rude marks upon them, and one of them has spiral zigzags. Some antiquaries have carried their zeal so far, as to discover (in idea) *letters* on the stones, which they have attributed to the Phœnicians; whilst others have denominated them Ogham characters: these *marks* bear very little resemblance to letters, but

possess a great degree of similarity to the ornaments found on the ancient British urns discovered under the tumuli of Wiltshire. In the opposite recess, there are the fragments of another rock basin; and some authors assert (though, perhaps, without much foundation) that the centre recess contained a third vase.—For a short space from the entrance of the avenue, the roof is so low, that admittance can only be obtained by crawling; but after passing under one of the side stones, which has fallen across the passage, it becomes sufficiently elevated to admit a person at his full height.*—From the floor of the cavity to the summit of the

* Sir Richard observes, however, that “ though the form of this building certainly bears some resemblance to that of a cross, I can by no means attribute the construction of it to so late a period, viz. after the introduction of Christianity into our island; long before which time, if I may be allowed to judge from the researches I have made in Wiltshire, the custom of burying under tumuli, or barrows, had ceased.” In *Ireland*, Christianity is supposed to have been preached by St. Patrick about the middle of the fifth century: and, though the period at which this very singular structure was erected, will for ever, it is probable, remain unknown, yet we cannot but conceive that an era sufficiently remote will be assigned to it, in naming the century posterior, or that immediately prior, (since Christianity was not totally unknown here even before the arrival of St. Patrick) to that event. The figure of a cross is, we think, sufficiently described, to establish the idea that such a figure was intended; the mere rudeness of the resemblance in so remote an age, cannot be considered as a proof to the contrary: why, then, may we not derive this form from that union of *Christianized* notions with the more ancient Celtic practices, so likely to have prevailed at the time we are contemplating? We must also submit, that, agreeably to Mr. Whitaker’s remarks, the custom of burying under tumuli evidently *did* survive the introduction of Christianity in England;—and why not also in Ireland? It has even been supposed, that this very antique custom was not entirely relinquished in Britain until about the middle of the *eighth* century, when Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, commenced the practice of forming cimiteries within the walls of cities: however this may be, we can but ascribe Dr. Ledwich’s idea of the construction of this cave and mount as in the *ninth* century, to the passion, with which that writer appears animated, for approximating, as far as may be possible, the dates of numerous objects of antiquity in his own country to a comparatively modern era.

tumulus, is about 70 feet; the circumference at top is 300; and the base of the mount occupies no less than two acres of ground: the whole forming a most stupendous atchievement of human labour.

SLANE, six miles from Drogheda, is a neat and newly-built town, and presents other curious relics of antiquity. The situation of the place, at a remarkably picturesque part of the river, is such as could not be overlooked, either by the cloister-loving monk, or the more solitary anchorite. Accordingly, as Archdall informs us, "an *Abbey* of Canons Regular, was founded at a very early age, on a hill, adjoining the town, and was remarkable for being many years the residence of Dagobert, king of Austrasia, who (A. D. 653) at the age of seven years, was taken by Grimoald, mayor of the palace, and, by his direction, shorn a monk, rendered unfit to hold the reins of government, and banished into Ireland. He was received into this abbey, where he obtained an education proper for the enjoyment of a throne, and continued here during the space of 20 years, when he was recalled into France, and replaced in his government."* Ireland, at this early period undoubtedly held intercourse with France, and was the mart of literature to the whole western world. The ruins of the abbey at present consist of a large chapel and a lofty tower at the west end; in the latter there is a handsome ramified window. It was frequently pillaged during the prevalence of the Ostman power in the island; but in the year 946 the Ostmen received a signal defeat in this town, in which their chieftain, Blacar, and 1600 of his best troops, fell. The English, with Mac Morrogh, king of Leinster, burnt and sacked the town, A. D. 1170. In the time of Hugh de Lacy, first Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Slane was a consider-

* Archdall quotes the French historian, *Mezeray*, for these facts; but they are somewhat differently stated in '*L'Art de Verifier les Dates*,' tom. I. p. 546.

able town, being one of the boroughs in his palatinate of Meath.

The *Hermitage of St. Erc*, of which some trifling remains are yet visible in the grounds of a neighbouring nobleman, Lord Conyngham, derived its name from the first bishop of Slane, who was consecrated by St. Patrick, and died A. D. 514. In 1512, Malachy and Donat O'Brien were two hermits who resided here; but they were removed from the hermitage to the abbey, then rebuilt, after its demolition by the English and Mac Morrogh, for Friars of the Third Order of St. Francis, as appears by the charter granted by Christopher Fleming, Lord of Slane, a copy of which is preserved in Grose's Antiquities.

Lord Conyngham's seat, *Slane Castle*, is placed in a romantic situation, surrounded by a great extent of wood; and while it commands a beautiful view of the Boyne and its rocky margin, the woods at Beau Park, a neighbouring estate, contribute greatly to its embellishment. The grounds are very boldly diversified, rising around the castle in noble hills, or beautiful inequalities of surface, with an outline of flourishing plantations. Through the midst of the domain the river winds its course, forming a reach broken by islands, with the fine shore of rock on one side, and wood on the other. At *Beau Park*, in the opinion of Sir Richard Hoare, "all would be perfect, if the architecture of the mansion-house accorded with the surrounding scenery of rock, wood, and water; but so inappropriate and discordant a building was never before seen. Here indeed projecting towers, bastions, and battlements, would have their due effect. On the other side of the river are some fine rocks, whose strata are very singularly disposed in the form of Gothic arches." Notwithstanding, the mansion of the Lambert family; at Beau Park is in itself handsome, and the interior unites much elegance with every possible convenience.

The Rev. Mervyn Archdall, from whose 'Monasticon Hibernicum' we have more than once quoted, was rector of Slane, where he died in 1791. He was both an exemplary divine, and learned antiquary. His native place was Dublin, in whose university he was educated. His passion for collecting coins, medals, and other antiques, having acquired him the notice of Dr. Richard Pocock, Archdeacon of Dublin, and subsequently Archbishop of Ossory, he was preferred by that prelate to the living of Attanah and a prebend, which not only produced him a comfortable support, but enabled him to pursue zealously his Monastic History of Ireland, in which he had already made considerable progress. Like numberless ingenious men, he wanted but the enlivening and maturing warmth of patronage, not only to be highly useful in the different departments of learning, but even to attain eminence in them. The excellent bishop, his patron, quitted life, in 1765. Mr. Archdall had, at that period, been so indefatigable in his researches, that his collections amounted to nearly two folio volumes, and these on a subject interesting to every man of property in Ireland; as the records relating to the monastic foundations, both from the original donors, and the grants of these by the crown, to the present possessors, include more than a third of all the land in the island; and yet, invaluable as these records were, for they were the fruits of 40 years intense application, there was found no individual of generosity and patriotism enough, to enable the collector to give them to the world. He was therefore obliged to abridge the whole, and contract it within a quarto volume, which he published in 1786. He also, three years afterwards, published an enlarged edition of Lodge's Peerage of Ireland, which he extended from four to seven volumes octavo. His memoirs, at greater length, occur in Ryan's 'Biographia Hibernica, or Biographical Dic-

tionary of the Worthies of Ireland,' from which these particulars are extracted.

Dunmow Castle, with numerous others in this vicinity and throughout the county, was built by Hugh de Lacy, for the security of his palatinate; but in a great measure rebuilt while James II. was in Ireland, and then made a castellated house, as it appears at present. In its lofty bastions and massive walls diversified by a very few windows close under the battlements, it affords a good specimen of the style of building considered necessary for defence in the turbulent times when it was re-erected. Its name, as well as that of the town so called in Essex, is conjectured by Dr. Ledwich to be derived from the Anglo Saxon *Dunmawan*, signifying 'the fruitful hill, which yields rich crops to the reapers;' and he observes that in Domesday Book Dunmow is written *Dunmaw*. This may be correct: though Hugh de Lacy, who most probably gave name to the castle, was undoubtedly of Norman extraction.

During the civil wars of Ireland, this castle frequently changed masters. In 1641, after the defeat of the English forces near Julian's Town, by the Irish, a detachment of the latter was sent to take Dunmow and the neighbouring castles: Captain Power, who commanded there with 30 men, bravely resisted their assault; nor did he submit, until the Irish produced a forged order from Parsons and Borlasse, the Lords Justices, requiring him and the other commanders to surrender, and join them at Dublin with their garrisons. The strength of this castellated mansion is still great, and it might even yet afford an advantageous strong-hold against a foreign or domestic enemy.

Torfeckan Castle, three miles and a half north-east of Drogheda, is not worth the tourist's leaving the main road to examine, although the ruins are sufficiently picturesque, and, to those whose main object is the inspection of antiquities, might prove interesting. It

stands near the sea, in the centre of a mean village, where, when the place was of greater note, there existed an Abbey for Regular Canonesses, which was confirmed by Pope Celestine III. in 1195. Torfeckan is stated by Ledwich to be a contraction from Termonfechan, 'the Sanctuary of St. Fechin,' who was abbot of Fowre, in the county of Westmeath; and that the manor belonging to the see of Armagh, the primates usually resided three months in the year in this castle; Archbishop Usher being the last who did so.

The county of Louth, through the heart of which we are about to proceed from Drogheda, presents a considerable variety of surface, undulating in small hills, which are occasionally wooded. Its rivers, besides the Boyne, are the Dee, the Fane, the Lagan, the Dundalk, and the Jonesborough; which, traversing the county from west to east, discharge their waters into the Irish Channel. It is the smallest county in Ireland.

Shortly after leaving Drogheda, we saw ploughing in a field by the road-side, with six horses, two abreast, having collars of straw, and ropes for traces. This mode, though sufficiently *outré* for the present period in agriculture, is certainly a great improvement upon the ancient custom of *ploughing by the tail*, mentioned by the celebrated pedestrian Scotchman, Lithgow, who in the reign of James the First published an account of his travels on foot, over Europe, Asia, and Africa.* He speaks of the 'remarkable sight' in 'Ireland's north parts,' of 'ploughs drawn by horse-tails, wanting harness: they are only fastened with straw, or wooden ropes;† the horses marching all side by side,

* At the conclusion of his work, this remarkable man informs us, that "his painful feet had travelled over, (besides passages of seas and rivers) 36000 and odd miles;" an extent of surface considerably more than the circumference of the earth.

† Wooden ropes, made of thin slices from the roots of the moss-fir, and platted nearly in the same way as ladies' straw-bonnets, are to be met with, even yet, in parts both of Scotland and Ireland.

three or four in a rank, and as many men hanging by the ends of that untoward labour.' 'It is as bad a husbandry,' he continues, 'as ever I found among the wildest savages alive; for Caramins, who understand not the civil form of agriculture, yet delve, hollow, and turn over the ground with manual and wooden instruments: but the Irish have thousands of both kingdoms daily labouring beside them; yet they cannot because they will not learn, to use harness, so obstinate they are in their barbarous consuetude, unless punishment and penalties were inflicted; and yet most of them are content to pay 20 shillings a-year, before they will change their custom.' Not more than 50 years back, we believe, the custom of ploughing by the tail was not wholly extinct in the island. The relics of the rudest practices in agriculture, are yet more generally visible than most English people would suppose possible in a civilized kingdom of the nineteenth century; amongst others which we frequently noticed on this road, may be mentioned the method of sowing potatoes with a spade, the handle of which is commonly four feet in length, and the operation performed by women, barefoot. Other women were observed spreading manure over the fields—not with forks—but their fingers!

From this picture of comparative barbarism, the tourist will turn with delight to the scene of universal improvement in the agricultural, moral, and domestic habits of the peasantry, produced by the benevolent labours of a truly illustrious individual, at the neighbouring village of COLLON. From the remarkable change in the style of the farm-houses, cabins, and other buildings, and in the general appearance of the inhabitants, exhibited by this village and its vicinity, the stranger might be almost led to fancy that, in the course of his progress across the country from the Dunleer road to Collon, a whole century

devoted to improvement had elapsed, so strikingly different is the aspect of all things around him. 'The Great Improver,' as he is called by Mr. Young, (and whose name many of our readers will have anticipated as that of FOSTER) 'has made a barren wilderness smile with cultivation, planted it with people, and made those people happy. Such are the men to whom monarchs should decree their honours, and nations erect their statues.' The estate of this gentleman, comprehending 5000 acres, naturally as ungenial to tillage as any in the whole island, was originally a waste sheep walk, covered chiefly with heath, dwarf furze, and fern: yet, as the great agriculturist just quoted, expresses himself, 'the country is now a sheet of corn,' interspersed with plantations, which, in spite of the sterility of the soil, the elevated situation of Collon, and its uninterrupted exposure to the winds from the sea, flourish luxuriantly. These plantations are conspicuous in every direction for many miles.

The village, which is eminently neat, was entirely built by Mr. Foster. The walls of the cabins are white-washed, and the roofs covered with Welsh slate. The *Church*, a handsome building, has a tower of very chaste Gothic: the architect, a neighbouring gentleman, well known both by his taste for literary and agricultural pursuits, the Rev. Dr. Beaufort. A cotton manufactory, a school on Dr. Bell's system, and a dispensary, are also established in the village.

Collon, it may be observed, is probably the most protestant parish in a county, where the average of catholics to protestants is estimated at 15 to one. The church is attended by about 160 persons, and the popish chapel by about 1100. There is also a methodist meeting-house.

The domain of Mr. Foster commands a prospect of singular magnificence. The immediate foreground, as was noticed by Mr. Wakefield, looking north-east, consists of a declivity of tilled land, bordered on each side

by beautiful plantations. The eye, then passing over some miles of country, catches a view of Carlingford Bay, forming a watery expanse of great extent, and of the coast stretching to a considerable distance, with the mountains surrounding the bay, and those of Mourne still higher, which have a blacker appearance. The blue colour of the bay, contrasted with the yellow tint of the sandy beach by which it is bordered, the Carlingford mountains in the neighbourhood, and the more elevated dusky ones of Mourne, stretching inland in the form of an immense amphitheatre, and to the eastward the sea terminating the view, form altogether a spectacle grand and magnificent. Mr. W. farther observes: 'though there are many other seats in the county, I must in a particular manner call the traveller's attention to this interesting spot, which in every point of view is superior to them all: no place in the island is more worthy of notice. By the improvements around, the stranger will perceive, long before he reaches it, the plans of a great and comprehensive mind, executed with much taste and judgment. The roads in the neighbourhood are in as good order as any in Europe.'*

DUNLEER, much decayed from its former consequence, is situated upon a streamlet flowing into the river Dee. It was a borough-town previous to the Union. At *Greenmount*, on the right, are some curious earthen works on the summit of a hill, with a tumulus, from which the prospect is most extensive. *Clonmore*, three miles east of Dunleer, has the remnant of an old castle, once the habitation of the Verdens, who are said to have represented the county in parliament; and a tradition exists that St. Columbkil founded a church there. Most of the inhabitants of this village and its vicinity speak English, but they prefer the Irish for domestic intercourse. The children almost universally in this

* Account of Ireland, I. 46;

neighbourhood understand English, and are always able to explain and interpret to strangers, when their parents are unacquainted with it. In their style of dress, the peasantry of this part of the country, the females more particularly, have much improved within these few years, a turn for a cheerful decency of appearance having evidently gained ground among them: shoes and stockings, it may be observed, (since the observation will far from generally apply in Ireland) are universal with both sexes. *Rathdrumin*, south of Clonmore, is visited for its large *Rath*, supposed to be Danish, which appears in excellent preservation. It consists of an elevated area, 60 yards in diameter, surrounded by a double fosse and mounds; the whole forming a circle 130 yards in diameter.

Just beyond CASTLE-BELLINGHAM, a village pleasantly situated, the road leads directly to the edge of Dundalk Bay, and is continued along the beach for the distance of three miles; but from *Lurgan Green*, where is a seat of the Earl of Clermont, it runs more inland to Dundalk. The bay, being extensive, affords a pleasing object so long as it remains in sight; but, owing to its shallowness, which is so extreme that scarcely a fishing boat can near the shore, its use is very limited. At low water, the extent of sand appears immense, and immediately suggests an idea of the vast tract of it that English industry would speedily reclaim and cultivate. Sheep and cattle thrive on the salt-marshes; and wild geese and barnacles, with all the various tribes of sea-fowl, are here abundant. Cockles are sometimes gathered by myriads in the bay.

At this part of our Excursion, curiosity suspended our progress for a few minutes, to observe a *Funeral*, which, coming from Dundalk, occupied the road for a considerable length. To a stranger in the country, exhibitions of this kind possess many features of singularity; and, as our driver, who happened, however, to be

English, took occasion to guess, we ‘ might have lived all the days of our lives, and not *seen* such a thing in England.’ The person whose obsequies were here celebrated, was an unmarried lady of Dundalk, who, being very generally respected, every vehicle of every kind in the town was put in requisition to do honour to her memory. Altogether, the concourse of cars and chaises, with horsemen and foot followers, appeared ‘ prodigious.’ The hearse, as is usual in Ireland, was of an open form, having slender pillars at the angles sustaining a canopy: beneath the latter was a handsome coffin. Notwithstanding the general effect was interesting, many of the details, as is very common, were wanting in appropriate solemnity. That a multitude should all appear in mourning habiliments on such an occasion, of course is not to be expected; but the mixture of black with every variety of colour—of every degree of respectability from gentility to the threadbare garment, in the dress of the followers—together with that of vehicles of all shapes, sizes, and pretensions, as to soundness and smartness of appearance, in their conveyances—produces ideas rather ludicrous than grave in the unaccustomed spectator. We could not avoid observing also, that the feathers, surmounting the canopy, which we witnessed at this and some other funerals, had undoubtedly been white *once*; but that their hue, at the period of our observations, was such as would not be allowed to possess any claim to that colour in England.

DUNDALK is an ancient and populous town, perhaps one of the oldest in Ireland. The principal street is a mile in length, irregular, but in parts neat and well-built: several smaller streets diverge from it. In the centre of the town stands the seat of the Clanbrassil family, now descended to Lord Roden. A spacious garden, and well-wooded demesne, but apparently neglected, extend behind the house: the surrounding meadows are rich. In this mansion are two curious old

portraits of Henry the Eighth and Anna Bullen, painted in the style of Holbein. A *Court-house, Gaol, Barracks, and Charter School*, are also to be observed here.

Being at the very extremity of the English pale, this town was formerly a mass of castles and towers, erected to repress the incursions of the Irish of Ulster, and has made some figure in the history of the island. In 1315, Edward Bruce, landing with a large body of Scots at Carrickfergus, and being joined by many of the natives, marched to Dundalk, which surrendered to him on the 29th of June, when he immediately committed it to a general conflagration. In the next year, he here caused himself to be crowned king of Ireland; and, growing insolent from success, still more extended his ravages, sparing neither women nor children, and levelling abbeys and churches with the ground; until at length Lord Bermingham, with a body of English troops, encountered, vanquished, and slew the invader, in this neighbourhood, and thus ended his transitory reign. Soon after which, O'Hallan, an Irish chief, came to Dundalk to demand contributions; but was so warmly received by Robert Verdon, the governor, that he retreated, leaving 200 of his followers behind him. In 1566, the chieftain Shane O'Neal made two successive attempts upon the town with no better success. During the rebellion of 1641, falling into the hands of the Irish, Sir Henry Tichburne assaulted the place, which at that time was defended by a double wall, and double ditch; having the advantages besides of a marsh on one side and the sea on the other; but, in spite of these discouraging circumstances, and a most obstinate resistance from the beseiged, the English commander succeeded in obtaining possession. In 1649, Colonel Monk being commander for the parliament in Dundalk, was obliged by his own garrison to capitulate to Lord Inchiquin.

The most perfect remnant of antiquity here, is a *Tower* of a Grey Friary, at the east end of the town,

where this monastic edifice was erected in the reign of Henry III. by John, Lord de Verdun: its east window is said to be particularly admired for its curious and elegant workmanship. On the west side of the tower is a Gothic window, over which is a projecting stone cut into a grotesque head, and the terminations of the arch are finely ornamented. The prospect from the summit is fine and extensive. Another monastic foundation in this town was a Priory for Cross-bearers, following the rule of St. Augustine, and whose patron was St. Leonard; it was instituted by Bertram de Verdun, Lord of Dundalk, about the end of the reign of Henry II. and was subsequently converted into an hospital, for the sick, the aged, and the infirm of both sexes.

The great northern road from Dundalk, leading to the county boundary, skirts the rich plantations of *Ravensdale Park*, another seat of Lord Clermont, which are backed by a fine heathy mountain; and in its vicinity also occurs the seat of Baron Mc Clelland, likewise known by the appellation of *Ravensdale*, from the little village of that name in the neighbourhood.

On the east side of the winding road to Carlingford, two miles from Dundalk, is the estate of J. Wolfe Mac Neale, Esq. bearing the marks of much improvement as to soil, but by no means well planted. BALLYMASCANLON, so called from the Scanlon family, who resided here until banished by James the First, is a village on this road, near which is to be seen a Cromlech, consisting of a stone of enormous size, incumbent on three others, and called *The Giant's Load*. A range of heathy mountains, but affording tolerable pasturage in summer, extend upwards of seven miles, along the eastern part of the parish of Ballymascanlon; they have no general appellation, but one of them has obtained the name of *Carriquit*. Vast iron mines may be supposed to exist in these mountains, from the number of chalybeate springs which rise among them. Here are also exten-

sive quarries of limestone. *Bellurgan Park*, on the right, stretches pleasantly to the south along the sea shore. *Piedmont*, three miles farther, on the left, a pretty residence, is also the property of Lord Clermont.

CARLINGFORD, in itself an inconsiderable town, deserves a visit on account of the beauty of its situation, at the foot of lofty mountains, with the bay in front, as well as for its remains of antiquity. Formerly, like Dundalk, Carlingford was entirely made up of towers, castles, and castellated houses, strongly garrisoned, for the protection of the pale against the northern Irish: the principal of these, a part of which is still standing, is by tradition attributed, like so many other castles both in this country and in England, to king John; but the probability is, that it was erected either by De Lacy or De Courcy. The object of this *Castle* appears to have been the defence of a narrow pass at the base of the mountains, close by the sea, where but few men could march abreast; dangerous and steep rocks hanging over the deep on one side, and mountains, the altitude of the least of which is 700 yards, rising on the other. The figure of the ruins is triangular; the foundation is the solid rock; and the walls, 11 feet in thickness, are washed by the ocean. The divisions of the apartments, on the south side of a wall which separated the building in the centre, are yet visible; as is the appearance of a platform or battery, intended probably for the defence of the harbour. The view from it is grand, embracing the bay, the ocean, and, on the north-east, the lofty mountains of Mourne. The bay, which is so completely land-locked and surrounded by mountains that it appears more like a large inland lake than an arm of the sea, is three miles long, and as many broad, and capable of receiving the largest vessels; but the number of rocks rendering the navigation dangerous, it is of course but little frequented. The finest green-firmed oysters are

caught on its shores, and vast quantities of them transmitted every season to Dublin.

On the south side of the town are the remains of an *Abbey*, founded here in 1305 by Richard de Burgh, the red Earl of Ulster, and dedicated to St. Malachy, whose festival is celebrated on the 3rd of November. The ruins, covered with ivy, are picturesque, and, the mountain views around added, have an air of romantic wildness. The church of the monastery is the only part of the buildings remaining, whose form can be traced with distinctness: it appears to have consisted of two long chapels, and a square central tower, supported by a lofty arch: the west end has a square tower at each angle, and a small turret in the centre. There is another small ruin, which also probably was a chapel.

Carlingford was a borough previous to the Union, and gives the title of viscount to the family of Carpenter, whose present representative has been created Earl of Tyrconnel. It is observed, that from the relative situations of the place and adjacent mountains, the inhabitants are deprived of the sun's rays, by the intervention of the latter, for a considerable time before sun-set in the plain country. The whole promontory, of which this town is the principal, appears, doubtless on account of the security afforded by its natural advantages of wild, rocky, and mountainous surface, to have been selected by successive races of invaders, as a fastness and stronghold; for numerous are the remains, not only of comparatively modern castles, but of the mounds and raths of more ancient date, to be found on it.

The tourist may vary his return from Carlingford to Dundalk, by taking the road leading northwestwardly, parallel with the bay, until, arriving on the banks of the Narrow or Newry water, a turn to the left will conduct him to the high north road, by which he will again reach the latter. By this route we pass Ravensdale, beforementioned, and approaching Dundalk, observe on the right

a raised earthen-work, with a building on its summit, and just below it a castle. These are seen for several miles along this road, and are deserving of a walk to examine them.

Castletown Castle, for such is the name of the structure at the foot of the hill, of which the earthen-work crowns the top, is a handsome old edifice, in tolerably good repair, being adapted to the purposes of a kitchen and servant's hall by the owner, who lives in an adjoining modern house. Some castellated gateways, added as an approach to it, are certainly no embellishment. The castle has a square tower at each angle, and was formerly defended by a strong wall and works of circumvallation: its date, as appears by an inscription on the building, is 1361, at which period it was erected by Lord Bellew. A little above stands a *Church* in ruins, ivy-clad, to which is attached a cemetery, thickly strewn with the little mounds which denote the slumbers of mortality, but used as a place of interment by catholics only. On the plain below was formerly a very considerable fort or camp, in strength little inferior to that above it, and more advantageously situated in regard to the river which runs close to its side. The town, from which the castle derives its name, having been sacked and destroyed by Edward Bruce, brother to the king of Scotland, during his incursions upon Ireland, these latter works may probably be vestiges of those times.

The fine old *Danish Mount*, as it is reputed, above, commands a most pleasing and extensive view of the bay, the ocean, river, of Sliebhguillen, and the mountains of Carlingford. From this mount, Cromwell, it is said, battered and dismantled the chapel once attached to the castle, and finally made himself master of the castle itself, in spite of the vigorous defence of the Bellews. The *Folly*, or building noticed as standing on the mount, was erected, and so called, by the owner of

the ground:—probably it occupies the site of the battery planted by Cromwell.

About four miles from Dundalk, to the left of the road to Armagh, are the majestic ruins of *Roche Castle*, formerly one of the frontier castles of the pale. In situation and general appearance this castle much resembles that of Bolsover in England. Placed on the summit of a rocky hill, it must have been capable of holding out to great advantage against an enemy; and it commands a view of the neighbouring country to a great extent. The area within the rampart walls resembles the form of a triangle, but rather inclining to a semicircle, following the shape of the rude hill which sustains the massive remains. The great chord, which is the front and longest side, extends 80 yards, and the versed sine about 40.

The remnant of a lofty tower, under which is a sally-port, stands at one angle; but this, with all the other works, was dismantled by the victorious Cromwell, in 1649, when the castle was for a while retained by the adherents of the unfortunate Charles the First. Tradition reports the edifice to have been constructed by a Rose Verdun, of an ancient English family of large property, and from her called Rose, since corrupted into Roche, Castle.

At our first visit to Dundalk, when we quitted it to take the road to Kells, our departure was for a while delayed by fruitless efforts to obtain a chaise, car, or conveyance of any kind, to proceed with, on account of the funeral, described to have passed us on our approach to the town, having engrossed every vehicle which it afforded; and none of these being expected to return before night-fall, we preferred occupying the remainder of the day by an effort at *pedestrianism* to Ardee, disposing of our baggage as we might, to staying at Dundalk till morning. To this alternative we were the more readily reconciled, by the recollections of our

past experience in dilemmas somewhat similar; by which we had been and are convinced, that the traveller in a strange country loses the most favourable of all opportunities for the inspection of national manners, customs, and character, who is not occasionally at least from choice, or cannot, from temporary necessity, become, a pedestrian. And let not the English reader, whose imagination is not uncommonly imbued with ideas of all that is wild, terrible, treacherous, and banditti-like, as applying to the lower Irish—let not, we say, ‘the *meer* Englishman,’ if his lordly pride will permit us to designate him by the title which his forefathers unscrupulously bestowed on the Irish of old—let him not, we pray, now tremble for the safety of our persons, because we have undertaken an expedition of 12 miles Irish, by a cross-road, in the county of Louth, on foot! To calm his fears, let us remind him that, throughout the whole of this our projected expedition, we shall not for a moment quit the hallowed precincts of ‘*the pale*,’ and, if he be still credulous of danger, let us, dropping irony, inform him, that not in this county, nor in the province of Leinster, only, but, whether—placed in similar circumstances—our feet were plodding in the north, the south, the east, or the west of that misreported country, whether treading the desolately-sublime rocks of the coast of Antrim, the mountain-passes of Donegal or of Kerry, or the wildest and most trackless parts of Connaught, still was the conduct of the rudest peasantry not only such as to prevent alarm, but as to excite attachment; still, whether their language were English, or the language which they love, that of their country, their religion that of the Church of England, Presbyterian, or Romish, still were their habits and their manners mild, their address civil, their actions obliging, their conversation intelligent, their peculiar expressions endearing. If the reader yet doubt these facts, facts sufficiently notorious to all who *have* travelled, with liberal views

towards a knowledge of the real national characteristics, in Ireland, we can only recommend that, before he pre-judges the majority of the people of this country, he should *travel the country for himself*; and if he *be* liberal and open to conviction, (which we shall not presume to question) he will be unlike the wisest and most enlightened of Englishmen who have preceded him, if he do not acknowledge on his return, as they have done, many prejudices, acquired probably he knows not how, removed, and many errors, of whose source he may be equally ignorant, corrected.

Very soon after entering upon the cross-road, a change rather for the worse was perceptible in the cabins of the poor, and their interior accommodations; as well as in the *style* of the agriculture, if we may so express ourselves, if not in its productiveness. We mean that the appearance of the fields, and their enclosures, was yet less trim than that of any on the high road we had left: a greater quantity of the land was also devoted to the culture of potatoes. The road itself was excellent;* as are most of the cross-roads in Ireland, and for two reasons; viz. the excellence of the materials, generally also to be had near at hand, of which they are composed, and the immense sums annually expended in

* The roads extending from this neighbourhood, and Ardee, southwards, to that of Drogheda, are chiefly formed of a black siliceous kind of stone, procured from quarries in the vicinity, and broken into *sufficiently* small pieces (which is not always the case in English road-making) for the purpose. This stone has at first the appearance almost of coals; and forms so hard and compact a bottom, that the traveller may proceed many miles without experiencing the inconvenience of a rut. Besides which, throughout the counties of Dublin, Louth, and Meath, and in Fermanagh (in Ulster) also, conspicuous direction-posts are every where to be seen; (the directions which several of them in the county of Dublin give '*to the Sea*' appear curious to the English traveller) but in most of the other counties, we believe, there is too much ground for the idea, that the pressing want of fuel experienced by the lower classes, would occasion their conversion into that necessary article almost immediately upon their erection.

their repairs. We may have previously alluded to this subject, but we shall take the present opportunity of explaining to the uninformed, that the making or repairing of roads in this country is effected as follows. Any person who wishes to have a new road constructed, or an old one repaired, presents a memorial to the grand jury at assizes, together with an affidavit of the utility and necessity of the object proposed. If the jury allow 'the presentment,' the road is made or repaired, the accounting presentment sworn to, and must receive the sanction of the judge. The 'undertaker,' (i. e. the maker of the road,) afterwards procures an order from the grand jury to receive the money from the treasurer of the county; but, in the mean time, it is liable to be traversed by any land-holder in the barony, on his giving the parish 21 days' notice of his intention to oppose it at the assizes. The money is raised by a baronial tax, each barony paying the expence of the roads within its boundary, although it receives the authority of the grand jury to assess the whole county. (Mail-coach roads, the expence of which is defrayed by a tax upon the county, are determined upon by his Majesty's Post-master General.) From this account we may easily perceive, that it may become too frequently *the interest of individuals* to propose a new road, where more conducive to private convenience than to public utility; an additional inducement to which abuse must be, that the proposer is very commonly the 'undertaker.' In proof of the justice of these remarks, we may add the observation of a native writer, the Rev. Dennis Magrath, vicar of Ballymascanlon, Louth, who, in his description of that parish, drawn up to be included in the 'Statistical Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland,' mentions as a 'calamity,' and 'an obstacle to the improvement' of the people, '*road-jobbing*, which comes every half-year, a most heavy and unexpected burden *to the poor*.' 'It is now' he adds, 'become a tax of such magnitude, as

nearly to equal the revenues necessary to support the government, and to save the state.* The philanthropic traveller could be content to endure the inconvenience of roads somewhat less sumptuously preserved, if the

* We must be permitted, since our opinions upon this, and other subjects somewhat connected with it, have been thought too forcibly expressed, to subjoin the following reflections of the same gentleman, given like the former, under the head of 'Suggestions for Improvement, and Means for Meliorating the Condition of the People.' For we have not presumed, with this *native* writer, to remark, that did "the gentry shew an example of that good conduct, which they would wish to see in the people; did the great landed proprietors, in their treatment of the peasantry, *decline in general to make their own capricious will the law*, and thus deprive the ever watchful rebel of his wished-for opportunity, to diffuse the destructive poison of his doctrines, these measures would tend much to fix the peace, contentment, and industry of the people." Another observation, from one of these reverend gentlemen, applying to absentees, is, that "the parish which has no *resident gentlemen* to consider and promote its advantages, can scarcely expect melioration. Again, absenteeism, under the head of the parish of *Inver*, in Donegal, is spoken of as "the great bar to improvement." Again: "the parish (that of Kilmacahill, in Kilkenny) is at present uncommonly unfortunate: not a single proprietor resides on his estate; and of course no attention is paid to the inhabitants, except to collect their rents, that they may be elsewhere expended." Numerous, as we hope, are the resident gentry in Ireland, whose exertions towards the improvement of their poorer countrymen, entitle them to praises far above any that we can bestow; and such, we conceive, cannot feel offended at strictures, which, while they uphold to general observation the anomaly, as in every country it ought to be considered, of the country gentleman so wanting in patriotism as to be uninterested in the amelioration of all to whom his influence will reach, reflect the stronger lustre on *their* public characters, by contrast. We conclude this note, by the expression of our sincere wishes for the speedy completion of the 'Statistical Account' of Ireland, the commencement of which has been marked by the concentration of so many valuable materials towards a general and accurate view of the present state of the country at large, and various important hints for its improvement. In the prosecution of this work, we trust that 'The Clergy' will continue to 'step forward with alacrity and spirit;' and, remembering 'that in promoting a scheme for the general improvement of the country, they are but fulfilling an essential part of the duties of their own profession,' that they will not cease to be 'actuated by the same spirit of enlightened philanthropy

burdens of the people should thereby be lightened, and their situation proportionably improved.

But it ought not to be disguised, that habit hath done so much towards reconciling actual discomfort to the feelings of the Irish poor, that numerous instances occur of their neglecting the opportunity to amend their customs of domestic life when really possessed of the means. Examples of this kind now sometimes presented themselves in cabins, through the open doors of which the smoke issued in volumes from the fire in the centre of the only apartment, although these dwellings were provided with what appeared intended as substitutes for hearths and chimnies. In the case of such huts, the windows, to add to the appearance of misery, were almost uniformly unglazed; and frequently small square apertures in the mud walls were, with the doorway, the only conductors of air and light to the occupants—if we except crannies and even holes in the roof, fully capable of admitting not only those essentials to human existence, but the weather also, to the parlour, kitchen, dormitory, stable, and piggery (for one and the same room is commonly all these) beneath. Our friend, the pig, was usually the first *person* who met us at the door of a hut of this description, when curiosity induced the always welcome intrusion to observe the interior; and that he was not the least respected among the numerous inhabitants was evident from many trifling circumstances, frequently reminding us of a little anecdote we were told by a native gentleman, which is our authority for the appellation by which the grunter ‘at home’ is here designated. It should be noticed, that the main object of keeping an animal of

which guided the conduct of the Scotch clergy; respecting whose (similar) labours an able writer has declared “that the very valuable accounts collected in them will ever remain an extraordinary monument of the learning, good sense, and genuine information of the clergy of Scotland.”

this species, is to satisfy the landlord of the cabin, who receives it, or the money raised by the sale of it, at the stated period; an arrangement which, though 'his honour' scruples not his assent to it, is attended with such an accession of filth to the habitation, as must materially contribute to that predisposition to low fever so common with the Irish poor. A medical gentleman from England, a visitant, from motives of humanity, to a poor family residing in a cabin by the road-side, who were all what is called '*down* with the fever,' was not a little surprised to observe the pig wallowing on a part of the same straw on which reposed the wretched inmates. "My good people," said he, "how is it possible you can expect health, while you permit *a pig* to live in the same house with yourselves?" Striving to be pleasant even while under the debilitating influence of disease, the peasant readily replied: "Plase your honour, and who has so much *right* to live in the house, as *the person* that pays the rent of it?"

The *Half-way House* between Dundalk and Ardee, afforded us, we are happy to observe, with a pleasing contrast to the scenes we have just endeavoured to depict, in the decent pride exhibited both in the persons and furniture of our host and his family, as well as in the abundance, comparatively, of comforts with which they seemed supplied. A village whiskey-house in exterior appearance, the apartment on which we looked around at entering had the aspect rather of the comfortable kitchen of the small farmer; for though the floor was of earth, and a dog, a kid, and a brood of chickens appeared to be equals in possession with the family themselves, yet a large store of smoked provisions, added to the before-mentioned appearances of superiority and cleanliness in the habiliments, utensils, and furniture of the occupants, bespoke a situation in life many degrees removed from poverty. A man, seated by the fire, was occupied with a young child, which he held in his

arms, in a manner commonly observed in parents only; while an elderly woman, apparently his mother, was engaged in some culinary preparation, and a neat, good-looking young woman, the wife or sister to the host, was busily employed at spinning. Content and cheerfulness appeared to reign in this little whiskey-house, and the various brute animals under its roof to afford a frequent theme for joke and comment to their superior inmates: the kid, we are not ashamed to confess, was entertaining to more than themselves. With other intelligence, procured along with our refreshment of diluted whiskey, we here learned, that (as our host had been informed) a castellated and recently modernised seat, at a small distance nearly opposite, was erected by the Earl of Essex during his lieutenancy of the island in the time of Queen Elizabeth. On departing, a trifling addition to the charge, made as a gratuity to the young woman, who had officiated as waiter, was handed by her, with a blush of pride, to the senior female; and by the latter, after twice asking 'what will I do with the change?' retained only by actual compulsion!

ARDEE, anciently called ATHERDEE, is rather a neat-looking town, with a good inn, at which, with every possible accommodation, we slept.

The *Castle* was the first object of enquiry the next morning. This fortress, now used as a gaol, stands in the middle of the town; the east and west fronts defended by projecting towers, which rise above the other parts of the building. The whole, except the front to the street, is surrounded by houses; but enough is visible to the eye, to impart an air of gloom sufficiently corresponding with its present purposes. This structure was erected, about the year 1207, by Roger de Pippard, styled Lord of Atherdee, and must have possessed very considerable strength as a frontier defence to the pale. The town also was formerly walled and ditched; but the fortifications proved inadequate to resist the powerful

inroads of the sept of O'Neal, who in 1538, made themselves masters of the place and burnt it: a descendant also of the same family, Sir Phelimy O'Neal, obtained temporary possession in 1641, but was driven from the town with great loss by Sir Henry Tichburn. Ardee gives the title of Baron to the family of Brabazon, Earls of Meath, and, before the Union, returned two members to the Irish parliament. Though pleasantly and conveniently situated on the river from whence it derives its name, it exhibits evident traces of decay from its former importance.

The *Church*, described in Grose's Antiquities as formerly attached to a monastic establishment for Crouched Friars, founded by the same Roger de Pipard who built the castle, and 'nodding to decay,' has been supplanted by a neat modern edifice. In 1315, the ancient church, filled with men, women, and children, who had fled to it for protection, was mercilessly fired by the Scots and Irish commanded by Edward Bruce.

A mount of considerable elevation, called *Castle Guard*, is seen at a short distance from Ardee. It is surrounded by a deep and wide trench; and, being tastefully planted, has a picturesque appearance. Its height is 90 feet; the circumference, at the base, 600 feet, and, at the summit, 140. Remains of two concentric octagonal buildings are still visible at its top; and it is supposed to have been intended as a place of consultation for the chiefs and their dependents of old.

Approaching this town by the Collon road, *Millextown* is on the right; where is an ancient church, the gable end of which, standing at some distance, is gravely reported to have been blown to the situation it now occupies in a gale of wind! Mr. Young, who travelled by this road to Rossy Park, and thence to Ardee, in 1776, says, "one of the finest sheets of corn I ever beheld is seen from the hill which looks down on Atherdee.

It is a glorious prospect, all waving hills of wheat as far as the eye can see, with the town in a wood in the vale."

Near Rossy Park, on the Lagan, is the *Mill of Louth*, an inconsiderable village; and, in its vicinity, the decayed town which gives name to the barony and county. Here no vestiges remain of an Abbey, which, according to an Irish writer, was founded by St. Patrick himself, and reared 100 bishops, and 300 presbyters, all distinguished for learning and piety; nor of a Priory, modern in comparison, which, erected after the conflagration of the abbey in 1148, was consecrated by Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh, and appointed a sanctuary. That arch enemy to religious foundations, Henry VIII. gave the death-blow to this rich monastery at the Suppression; granting its site, and all its extensive possessions, to Oliver Plunket, Baron of Louth.

The want of every species of conveyance from Ardce to Kells, though it might have appeared a serious inconvenience to some travellers, was, for reasons already noticed, by us regarded as affording little matter for regret. The road, (now re-conducting us to Meath) lying over a perpetual succession of small hills, presented sufficient variety to the eye for many miles; and we were even tempted to go a short distance out of our way, to visit the little post-town of *Nobber*, the birth-place of the 'Last Minstrel' of Ireland, the celebrated **TURLOUGH CAROLAN**.

Blind and untaught, this minstrel-bard may with justice be considered both a musical and literary phenomenon. It was in his infancy that Carolan was deprived of sight by the small-pox; a deprivation which he supported with cheerfulness, merrily observing, "my eyes are transplanted into my ears." His musical genius was soon discovered, and procured him many friends, who determined to aid its cultivation: accordingly, at the age of 12, a proper master was engaged to

instruct him on the harp; and though his diligence in profiting by the regular modes of tuition was not great, yet the instrument was rarely unstrung, his native genius assisting him in composition, whilst his fingers wandered among the strings in quest of the sweets of melody. In a few years, 'this child of song' becoming enamoured of Miss Bridget Cruise, his harp, now inspired by love, would echo only to its sound; but though this lady did not give him her hand, yet, like Apollo, when he caught at the nymph, 'he filled his arms with bays,' and the song which bears the name of his fair one is considered his *chef-d'œuvre*, coming, as it did, warm from the heart, while his powers were in their full vigour. Solacing himself, after a time, for the loss of Miss Cruise, in an union with Miss Mary Maguire, a young lady of good family in the county of Fermanagh, he built a neat little house on a small farm near Moshill, in the county of Leitrim; but his wife whom he tenderly loved, being gifted in a small degree both with pride and extravagance, and he practising hospitality on a scale more suited to his mind than his means, the produce of his little farm was speedily consumed; and, soon left to lament the want of that prudence, without which the rich cannot taste of pleasure long, nor the poor preserve their modicum of happiness, he commenced the profession of an itinerant musician. And now, wherever he went, the gates of the nobility and gentry were thrown open to him; he was received with respect, and a distinguished place assigned to him at the table: "Carolan, says Mr. Ritson, "seems, from the description we have of him, to have been a genuine representative of the ancient bard." It was during these peregrinations that he composed those airs, which are still the delight of his countrymen, and which a more modern bard, possessed of a congenial soul, has, in the fullest sense of the words 'written up to' in his poetical melodies.

Several anecdotes, bordering almost on the miraculous, are told of Carolan; and, amongst others, the following. An eminent Italian music-master of Dublin, wishing, from the fame of the Irish bard, to put his abilities to a severe test, singled out an excellent piece of music, and highly in the style of the country which gave him birth; here and there, however, he either altered or mutilated the piece; though in such a manner that none but a real judge could make the discovery. This piece being played before Carolan, who bestowed on it the deepest attention, he declared it upon the whole admirable; but, to the astonishment of all present, humourously added, in his own language, “*ta se air chois air bacaighe*; that is, here and there it *limps* and *stumbles*. Being requested to rectify the errors, he did so; and the piece in its restored state, being returned from Connaught to Dublin, the Italian no sooner glanced his eye over it, than he pronounced Carolan to be a true musical genius. In 1733, he lost the wife of his bosom, and survived the melancholy event but five years, dying at the age of 68. The manner of his death has been variously related; but that his partiality for a more sparkling stream that flows at Helicon was the cause of his decease, is a point on which all his biographers are agreed. Goldsmith says, “his death was yet more remarkable than his life. Homer was never more fond of a glass than he. He would drink whole pints of usquebaugh, and, as he used to think, without any ill consequence. His intemperance, however, in this respect, at length brought on an incurable disorder; but, when just at the point of death, he called for a cup of his beloved liquor. Those who were standing round him, surprised at the demand, endeavoured to persuade him to the contrary, but he persisted; and, when the bowl was brought him, attempted to drink but could not; wherefore, giving away the bowl, he observed with a smile,

that it would be hard if two such friends as he and the cup should part, at least without kissing, and then expired." There is a prettiness of fancy playing about this anecdote, that may be thought to show the relator of it to have been, as he was, a poet; but we have doubts of its authenticity, and partly, at least, because we think such a termination to the life of a man of such superior powers as were Carolan's, borders on the profane equally with the poetical: such an end would have been perfectly characteristic of the heathen Anacreon; but the sweet, last bard of Erin, we are inclined to hope, since the tenor of his life was not immoral, (although exhibiting a melancholy example of human weakness in his attachment to inebriation) did, if conscious of the ebb of his earthly moments, elevate his thoughts to more momentous things than 'the bowl,' when on the brink of eternity. "Carolan's inordinate fondness," observes Walker, in his Account of the Irish Bards, "for Irish wine (as Pierre le Grand used to call whiskey) will not admit of an excuse; it was a vice of habit, and might therefore have been corrected. But let me say something in extenuation. He *seldom* drank to excess; besides, he seemed to think—nay, *was convinced from experience*—that the spirit of whiskey was grateful to his muse, and for that reason generally offered it when he intended to invoke her. Nor was Carolan," he continues, "the only bard who drew inspiration from the bottle: there have been several planets in the poetical hemisphere, that seldom shone, but when illuminated by the rays of rosy wine." By then proceeding to infer the advantages of a state of demi-drunkenness, so far as regards poetic composition, and instancing Homer, Cunningham, and Addison, as evidences of the justice of his theory, it would appear probable that Walker, as well as Carolan, 'thought talent similar to those richly painted vases in the east, the most

brilliant tints of which could not be discovered unless wine were poured into them.*

Somewhat relevant to the subject of our meditations, on returning from the native town of Carolan, were nearly the first words of an English soldier who addressed us just as we regained the road we had quitted; and, having asked the way to Ardee, and discovered by the accentuation of our reply that he was not in Irish company, delivered a round oath in abuse of *whiskey*, which he protested was abominable drink in a hot day to a thirsty foot-traveller; adding that he would give a day's pay for a draught of good *beer*, such as he could have obtained at every country alehouse in England. Having previously discovered that the malt liquor of the country was generally in truth villainous, we could readily sympathise with our countryman's perturbation on this account; but could not suppress a smile at the farther discovery which it appeared he had made, that even the *mile-stones* in Ireland committed blunders. But he was not the first Englishman, of the military profession, who had been posed by the length of the miles in Ireland, as compared with those of his own country; for, just after the exchange of the militias of the two kingdoms, (as we were informed in Hibernia) a private of a British regiment quartered in Kerry, who was toiling in a summer's day, laden with his knapsack and accoutrements, along a road remarkable as one of the worst of the very inferior ones to be found in that county, at length, bursting into a tremendous passion, accosted an Irish peasant, with an enquiry as to the reason 'why the miles were so d—d long in Ireland?' 'Plase your honour,' was the acute reply of the Hibernian, 'you see the road is but *bad—but we give good measure!*' An answer this, which, as it seemed an attempt to compensate for inferiority of quality by additional quantity, was, as applied to the road, any thing but satisfactory to the sturdy English-

* See Moore's *Lalla Rookh*.

man, who, with oaths of redoubled vehemence, continued his journey.

And, giving the best information we possessed to the soldier who had accosted us, we also resumed ours; and, passing through *Carlanstown*, where is a seat of the Marquis of Buckingham, arrived ere long in sight of Kells. With all our attachment to pedestrianism, we confess that the offer of a seat in the carriage which overtook us a few miles short of this place, was accepted with as much pleasure as it was made with politeness. The heat had become excessive; and we were besides gratified with the opportunity thus afforded of making enquiries of a gentleman, who might be resident near a town to which we had no letters. Though not a resident in the vicinity, this gentleman obligingly communicated some valuable information, and, with the urbanity which more particularly distinguishes the upper classes of his countrymen, acted as our guide to the antiquities of Kells; and did not quit us, till we were seated in a chaise from the *Bective Arms*, (a good inn) and were once more on our way to Dublin.

KELLS has the appearance of a very respectable town, and is undoubtedly a very ancient one. It is by no means improbable, as tradition reports, that it owed its origin to an abbey founded here by St. Columbkille in the sixth century. On the arrival of the English, it was walled and fortified with towers; and in 1178, a castle was erected on the site of the present market-place, which still bears a castellated appearance. Opposite to where the castle stood, is a fragment of a very fine *Cross*, sculptured in the richest manner; but which is said to have lain neglected on the ground for a length of time, until raised on its pedestal by the desire, and at the expence, of the celebrated Dean Swift.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Senan, a respectable edifice, and neatly fitted up, stands at the upper end of

the principal street: on its north side appears an insulated square tower, supporting a handsome spire, and bearing an inscription, on the wall nearest the church, purporting that the latter, being in decay, was re-edified A. D. 1572, (20 Elizabeth) by Hugh Brady, Bishop of Meath. Over this inscription, are three busts carved in stone; one of which represents a bishop, (probably the rebuilder of the church,) and the two others also appear intended for ecclesiastical personages. Beneath is an escutcheon of arms, bearing a dragon holding a standard.

On the south side of the cemetery is a *Round Tower*, 99 feet high, 16 feet in diameter, and the walls three feet thick. It does not taper so much towards the summit as many others. The roof has fallen in; but the windows at the four cardinal points are still perfect. In situation, this tower varies from the generality of those in Ireland, being placed to the south-west instead of north-west, of the church; but this seeming discordance is reconciled, Sir Richard Hoare tells us, by the information he procured of the *old* church having stood southward of the tower. In the church-yard is the fragment of another *Cross*, very richly decorated with figures of men, beasts, flowers, &c.

St. Columbkil's Cell*, said, without much foundation,

* St. Columba, or Columbkil, the apostle of the Picts, was also one of the greatest patriarchs of the monastic order in Ireland. To distinguish him from other saints of the same name, he was called *Columbkil*, on account of the number of monastic cells, called by the Irish *kills*, of which he was the founder. He was of the noble extraction of Neil, born at Gartan, county of Tyrconnel, in 521, and early becoming acquainted with the Scriptures, and the lessons of an ascetic life, under the celebrated bishop of St. Ferrain, in his great school of *Cluain-iraird*, he esteemed nothing worthy of his pursuit that did not assist in the disengagement of his mind from the world, and the advance of religion and holiness in his heart. Being advanced to the order of the priesthood in 546, he gave admirable lessons of piety and sacred learning, and was soon attended by many disciples. He founded, about the year 550, the great monastery of

to be the *first* built of the very singular stone-roofed chapels or oratories of Ireland, is not likely to be ob-

Dair-magh, now Durrogh, and Sir James Ware mentions a MS. copy of the four gospels of St. Jerome's translation, adorned with silver plates, as extant in his time, preserved in this abbey. He likewise founded many other monasteries of less note; and the same antiquarian observes, that a *Rule* composed by St. Columba then existed in the old Irish. This rule he settled in the 100 monasteries which he founded in Ireland and Scotland. King Dermot, like great men of more modern times, being offended at the zeal which reproved public vices, St. Columba determined on leaving his native country; and with his 12 disciples passed into Scotland, where he was successful in converting the king of the northern Picts, together with his subjects. These Picts having thus embraced the Christian faith, gave St. Columba the little island of Hy or Iona, called from him *Y-colin-kille*, 12 miles from the land, in which he built the great monastery, which was for several ages the chief seminary of North Britain, and continued long the burial-place of the kings, and other superior personages. Here St. Columba's manner of living was most austere; his fasting extraordinary, the bare floor his bed, and a stone his pillow; yet he was mild and cheerful, and his general beneficence won him the hearts of all. He considered time of so much value that he suffered no minutes to pass without employment; and that employment of the best kind, promoting religion and virtue in his own person, and communicating the same by example and precept to all around him—an example, in this respect, to the priesthood of all denominations. In the MS. life of him by O'Donnell, it is asserted that, being of the blood-royal, he was offered, in the year 544, the crown of Ireland; and that Dermot M'Cerball, his competitor, succeeded only because our holy abbot preferred the cowl to the diadem, an evident proof of the sincerity of his devotion, and the humility of his mind. He died in the 77th year of his age, and was buried in the island; but his remains were some ages after removed to Down, in Ulster, and laid in one vault with the remains of St. Patrick and St. Bridgit.—*Biograph. Hibern. pp. 485, 6.* To the monasteries of the age of St. Columbkille, it has been well observed, that "the learned resorted; here the ancient manuscripts were collected; here religion and learning found a safe and peaceful asylum. The monks imparted their knowledge and doctrines to numerous students, who disseminated them widely over the world: neither have their public services been confined to the cloister, for they were extended to the cultivation of the wildest desert, and most barren wilderness; and thus, by the sanctity of their morals, and by their enlightened understandings *within* doors, and their industrious labours *without*, they at once instructed, civilized, and benefited mankind."—*Sir R. C. Hoare's Tour. Introduction, p. XXVI.*

served by the tourist, unless previously aware of its existence here, being situated in the rear of a filthy lane of mud cottages, and actually forming a wood-house and turf repository to one of them.

It appears to have escaped the notice of Sir Richard Hoare, who speaks of that at Killaloe as ‘probably the original sanctuary of the holy man who founded the abbey;’ a supposition for which there are at the least equal grounds in the case of the cell, or oratory, of St. Columbkille. To what a remote period, allowing this supposition, (which, though it does not admit of proof, we conceive to be equally incapable of a decisive denial) do we look for the erection of this structure! Nearly 1300 years ago, this little edifice might be trod by the steps of St. Columba! a man who, in the age when Christianity was pure from the corruptions that afterwards defiled it, practiced the austere virtues which he preached, refused the proffered crown of his country, and, in holiness and humility of heart, ‘went about doing good.’ Simple, as was himself, still stands the cell of the venerable apostle: rude massive stones alone compose the front, rear, sides, and roof; the single aperture is the door-way; and the floor of the cell the same bare earth, which, but for the unavoidable accessions of years, would present the very surface on which the form of the saint often, perhaps, reposed. Spite of the scepticism of modern times, the imagination here wings its way to the distant era we have been contemplating; and delights to picture to itself the patriot-saint, whom no pleasures could allure, and no elevation could dazzle, blessing a devoted people by the diffusion of his learning, by the light of his precepts, and the force of his example: and while, with such teachers, possessing such extensive influence, the extreme barbarity of these people appears impossible, how repugnant to the heart of every real lover of his country must those modern doctrines be, which inculcate that the Irish nation was

necessitated to wait 600 years after the lessons of such men, for the arrival of a foreign armament, to be instructed (at the point of the pike, we presume, or of the arrow from the renowned Norman cross-bow) in the elements of civil union, in the first principles of the simplest arts and sciences, in the fundamentals of the rudest learning, and in the commonest notions of justice and humanity! Doubtless, the ravages of the barbaric Norwegians and Danes, continued for three centuries previously to the coming of the English, had done much to efface the very remembrance of the learned and religious institutions of anterior times: consequently, the inferences to be drawn from the history of the invasion of Ireland by Giraldus Cambrensis, (who was contemporary with, and a *kinsman* to, the invaders) although they should with justice apply to the *then* state of the Irish, cannot reasonably be brought to bear upon a period so long prior—and still less can the descriptions of the poet Spenser, written in the *sixteenth* century, afford any illustration of the manners, customs, and the arts of civil life, to be found among the natives in the *sixth*—even on the common but erroneous supposition, that so considerable a lapse of years must *necessarily* have been attended with improvement. And when or where did that nation exist, whom 1000 years of slavery (for slavery, during that period, in strict justice it may be called) would not have degraded? The Irish had degenerated in the time of Henry II.; they had degenerated yet more in that of Elizabeth; and the solution of these facts, as with all humility we presume them to be, is not, we think, difficult. We certainly shall not yield to Dr. Ledwich himself, in the opinion he appears to entertain of the mighty effect of the *laws* of a country upon the manners of its inhabitants; we cannot yet, with him, conceive that any possible system of laws should possess a tendency ‘to perpetuate *ignorance* and *barbarism*.’ we would rather attribute such effects to those intestine commotions, which at once dis-

turbed the operation of the laws, and prevented their amelioration. Besides, though the Brehon code were rude and imperfect, as have been the early institutions of all nations, is it not probable, that the fragments of it that have come down to our times, are the *additions*, made in times of foreign invasion and civil warfare, rather than the original constitutions of an age of lettered ease and religious prosperity? Yet the principle mainly recognised even by these, that of compensation from the offending party to the offended, appears to be implanted in our nature, and pervaded, it is likely, every aboriginal legal code: we must have lost all respect for the Mosaic system of laws, inspired by God himself, and throughout which this principle prevails, if we pronounce it necessarily tending to barbarism: and we may with confidence presume, that the Brehon laws, and the people which they governed, would have gone on mutually benefiting and improving each other up to the present period, as have the laws and the inhabitants of every country favourably circumstanced, if the circumstances in which the Irish nation were so long placed had but been favourable to such improvement. That the reverse of such mutual improvement, did here for so long a period obtain, is both the melancholy fact, and its own best possible solution.

But the learned Doctor does not seem aware of the sentence of condemnation he passes on the very people whose reduction of his country he so highly applauds, in this sweeping charge of barbarism against its ancient legal institutions; for, *were* the manners, customs, and laws of the natives so utterly barbarous—and did the English settlers (to whom he ascribes ‘piety,’ ‘bravery,’ and almost every virtue under heaven) *adopt* them? In a majority of instances, they actually did, notwithstanding the nominal abolishment of the Brehon code by Henry; and the reflection so curious an historical fact produces in our English bosoms is this; that, had the

Roman and Saxon conquerors of our own country acted as did the Anglo-Normans in Ireland—had *they* adopted the rude institutions of the Britons, in preference to implanting their own improved systems of legislature—at the same time that, instead of amalgamating with the natives, they kept them without a *pale* of demarcation—England at this day, in lieu of her admired constitution, (the result of Saxon law contending with Norman tyranny—of the eternal spirit of Alfred conflicting with the feudal genius of the Conqueror—) might have ranked lower in the scale of nations than the Hibernia of the sixth century.

To return to the stone-roofed cell of St. Columbkille. It seems not to be disallowed, even by Dr. Ledwich, that this building was either built by the direction, or adopted for the use, of the saint whose name it bears; and it appears to be composed of walls, whose masonry has defied the ravages of nearly 1300 years, and of a roof, whose *arch* has been bare to the heavens for an equal period of time. The air of rudeness impressed upon the structure, had it not attached to it when fresh from the hands of the workmen, must infallibly have prevailed in the aspect of a building of such simple form, exposed as this has been to the war of ages; and, upon the whole, it appears but natural to infer, that, as the people who erected this cell, were certainly possessed of the first principles of architecture, they sometimes applied them to the construction of edifices more complex. This, as appears from its smallness, as well as from the appellation it still bears, was probably a mere *sanctuary for mortification* of St. Columba's;—what then may have been the *palaces* erected at the same period? We are perfectly willing to admit, that *stone* was seldom, if ever, used in the construction of the latter; and Dr. Ledwich himself assures us, that “the doctrine and discipline of the Irish *Church* were averse to stone fabrics;” but why are we forbidden to suppose, that the extreme

commonness of stone in this country might render it of little esteem for public buildings of any kind?—and, since all our ideas of beauty and costliness are but relative, depending in a great degree on the supposed rarity of the thing called costly or beautiful, why, either, are we to deny elegance to the minds and manner of the courtiers of Tarah,* who had the models of all that was then esteemed elegant or rich before their eyes, or refinement to the generality of a people, with whom the treasures of classic lore, and the informing light of a pure religion, are with every reason supposed to have been familiar? Be it true, then, that, as Sir John Davies observed, ‘the Irishry,’ whom he allows to have been ‘lovers of poetry, music, and all kinds of learning,’ ‘did never build any houses of brick or stone, before the reign of King Henry II.,’ (though we are at a loss to conceive how he knew that they did not six centuries prior to that event,) still we cannot allow, that the people who built such a *cell* as that of St. Columbkil, who, from the evidence of that specimen alone, may be reasonably supposed to have been capable of productions very superior, and who, by the common consent of all writers, engrossed the literature and the piety of Europe, can with justice be disgraced by any epithet below that of civilized.

The demesne of the Marquis of Headfort, in the vicinity of Kells, is extensive, and well-planted; but, according to Mr. Curwen, ‘most legibly marked with the ruinous effects of absenteeism:—it was not necessary to be told that the estate was deserted by its owner.’† Sir R. C. Hoare remarks, on the same demense, that he ‘cannot commend the architecture either of the mansion-house, or its appendage, an ornamental tower, belonging to the same nobleman:’‡ the latter, however, is not

* The ancient residence of the Irish kings.

† Letters on the State of Ireland, II. 184.

‡ Journal of a Tour in Ireland, p. 174.

only for miles around a most conspicuous object, but affords from its summit a very fine view of the surrounding country. Mr. Wakefield calls ‘the seat of the Marquis of Headfort, near Kells, a noble mansion:’ his farther remark, that ‘these fine places (the numerous and very frequently tasteful residences of the gentry in this county) . contribute to render more striking the wretched hovels in which the peasantry dwell, and which are uncommonly bad throughout all Meath,’ is as just, as the inferences to be deduced from it are unpleasing.

The tourist, if he chooses to make a circuit from this point, may embrace Fore, and Castletown-Delvin, in Westmeath, together with Athboy and Trim, in the way to Navan: for in this, as in countless instances, travelling *by the map* is practicable to a degree not known in England: roads innumerable have been created since the tour of Arthur Young, yet, even at the period of his acute and judicious remarks, he could say, ‘I will go here, I will go there; I could trace a route upon paper as wild as fancy could dictate, and every where I found beautiful roads without break or hindrance to enable me to realize my design.’

FORE, or FOURE, is described, as to its monastic remains, by Mr. Archdall, with his usual learning and ability; besides which, some interesting records of the place by Sir Henry Piers, are preserved in Vallancey’s ‘*Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*,’ which are as follows:

“Foure, an ancient corporation, sending two members to parliament, is seated on the north side of a hill, which interposeth between it and Lough Lene. This town is said to have been anciently a town or university of literature; and its name, signifying in the Irish language the *town of books*, and Lough Lene, the *lake of learning*, together with an island in it bearing the like name, may seem to give countenance to this old

tradition. But if this town were not the mart of learning, surely it was of devotion, there being in it no less than the ruins of three parish churches, more by two than the greatest and best town of our county hath; one monastery, one church or cell of an anchorite, the sole of the religious of this kind in Ireland. This religious person at his entry maketh a vow never to go out of his doors all his life after, and accordingly here he remains pent up all his days: every day he saith mass in his chapel, which also is part of, nay almost all his dwelling house, for there is no more house, but a very small castle, wherein a tall man can hardly stretch himself at length, if he lie down on the floor; nor is there any passage into the castle, but through the chapel. He hath servants that attend him at his call in an outhouse, but none lyeth within the church but himself. He is said by the natives, who hold him in great veneration for his sanctity, every day to dig or rather scrape (for he useth no other tools but his nails) a portion of his grave; being esteemed of so great holiness, as if purity and sanctity were entailed on his cell, he is constantly visited by those of the Romish religion, who aim at being esteemed more devout than the ordinary amongst them: every visitant at his departure leaveth his offering, (or as they phrase it) devotion on his altar; but he relieth not on this only for a maintenance, but hath those to bring him in their devotion, whose devotions are not so fervent as to invite them to do the office in person; these are called his proctors, who range all the counties in Ireland to beg for him, whom they call ‘*The Holy Man in the Stone.*’ Corn, eggs, geese, turkeys, hens, sheep, money, and what not; nothing comes amiss, and no where do they fail altogether, but something is had, insomuch that if his proctors deal honestly, nay if they return him but a tenth part of what is given him, he may doubtless fare as well as any priest of them all. The only recreation this poor prisoner is capable of, is to walk on

his terras built over the cell-wherein he lies, if he may be said to walk, who cannot in one line stretch forth his legs four times." From an inscription still existing in a ruined chapel under the hill, which was the burial-place of the Westmeath family, and to whom there is a monumental tablet bearing date in 1680, it appears that a hermit resided here so late as the year 1616.

"Besides the ruins of these parish churches, city walls, and gateways, there is the shell of a spacious monastery,* situated in the vale below, and, as Sir H. Piers observes, 'built in a bog, but founded on a firm spot of ground.' This monastery presents a large pile of simple and unornamented masonry: the chapel is still in a tolerable state of preservation, and has three narrow pointed windows. The valley in which this abbey is placed, must in the time of its prosperity have been a delightful retreat; the outline is still good, and nothing is wanting but wood to render it an attractive spot in modern days; the approach to it from the east was protected by a strong fort, of which the earthen mounds only remain. Religion still maintains her rites at Fore, though forsaken by its cloistered inhabitants; one of the church-yards being thickly crowded with tomb-stones, though the church is in ruins;"† (a circumstance by no means uncommon in Ireland.)

Lough Lene is small, compared with other lakes in Westmeath, but gives birth to two rivulets, which, flow-

* "At Fore we find a Priory of Canons Regular, which was built by St. Fechin about the year 630. He died of the plague, A. D. 665, after having governed 3000 monks in this abbey." *Archdall's Monast. Hibern. p. 711.*—From the annals of the monastery, collected by the same author, we learn that it was founded in 1209 by Walter de Lacie, under the invocation of St. Taurin and St. Fechin, for monks of the order of St. Benedict, whom he brought for that purpose from the abbey of St. Taurin, in Evereux, Normandy, and made this a cell to that abbey; from which period, this religious house appears to have been generally known by the appellation of the Priory of St. Fechin and St. Taurin.

† Sir R. C. Hoare's Journal, p. 26.

ing from it, discharge themselves into the sea at opposite sides of the kingdom. The banks are flat, though well cultivated, and therefore less romantic than those of many others; but the soil being fertile, and in general sufficiently wooded, the district around may rank with the most beautiful in the island. Lough Lene produces good trout and pike, and becomes interesting to the lover of angling, from the three woody islets which picturesquely emerge from its surface, and afford him good stations for his favourite sport. On its north side, the waters penetrate beneath the rock, and reappear on the opposite side of the hill near Fore, where they turn a mill. Towards the south, at a small distance, is a raised earthen work, traditionally called *The Fort of Turgesius*, the Norwegian chief who is represented by Giraldus Cambrensis to have completed the conquest of Ireland. The circumstances attending the death of this tyrant are stated by the same historian to have taken place in 'a certain island in the province of Meath,' and, in the absence of all historical testimony as to the island meant, we may as naturally conclude it to have been one of these in Lough Lene as any other. "The Norwegian chieftain had conceived a violent passion for the daughter of the king of Meath, who, knowing the ferocious disposition of the tyrant, did not dare to irritate him by a denial. He therefore apparently acceded to his proposal, and promised to send his daughter, attended by 15 young damsels, to a certain island in the province of Meath, at an appointed time. In the mean while, Melaghlin (king of Meath) selects 15 of the most resolute and beautiful youths, without beards, orders them to be habited like young women, and to carry each of them a sword concealed under their garments. Thus accoutred, they proceed to the place of meeting; where they find the amorous chieftain, and his youthful comrades, eager to receive the princess and her supposed females: but no sooner had Turgesius trans-

gressed the bounds of decorum, than the young men drew forth their secret weapons, and, throwing off the disguise they had assumed, put the Norwegian and his companions to death: thus saving the honour of the royal father and of his daughter, and delivering their country from the hands of a most oppressive tyrant.”*

At *Castle Pollard*, in this vicinity, is a seat of Mr. Pollard, the plantations of which adjoin to those of *Pakenham*, the property of the Earl of Longford; but their situation presents nothing striking or picturesque. The ruined churches of *Clonarny* and *Archerstown*, possessing no remarkable feature, are also in this neighbourhood. *Clonmellon*, nearer Kells, has an elegant church, with a steeple and spire, all in very tolerable modern gothic.


At CASTLETOWN DELVIN, a town of small note, a part of the ancient baronial castle of the Earls of Westmeath is yet standing:† near it is a *Rath*.

The road from hence to *Baronstown*, where is a seat of Lord Sunderlin, is through a charming country, richly diversified with lakes and commanding eminences. Lord Sunderlin’s mansion extends 300 feet in front, including the wings: it stands in the midst of a considerable park, is surrounded by excellent plantations, and is possessed of a choice and very extensive garden. The Grand Canal from Dublin passes by the park walls. Lord Sunderlin is a resident proprietor, and a nobleman, of whose exertions to benefit his country, and appropriation of fortune to the same end, it is impossible to

* Giraldus. *Topographia Hiberniæ*.

† “*Delvin*, in the barony from it named, a large oblong square castle, high raised, having at each corner a large round tower, which equalleth, if not surmounteth the castle, a structure speaking ancient magnificence. It is now wholly waste, without roof or inhabitants. It giveth the title of a Lord Baron to the Right Hon. Richard Nugent, Earl of Westmeath, of an ancient illustrious family descended from Baron Jones, (who, without the style of lord) was of the first English conquerors, and seated here.”—*Vallancey’s Collectanea*, I. 62.

• speak in terms of too much praise. But let his actions speak for him! His lordship is a warm advocate for the education of the lower classes: he has therefore built a neat *School*, inscribed “Opened December, 1807, for the cheap and easy instruction of children of all religious denominations,” in which 100 boys and 80 girls are at present under tuition. It may be observed, that the Lancastrian plan was here attempted, but failed. The order and method introduced among the children, alarmed the parents: they thought it partook of military discipline, and formed part of a scheme to entice or entrap them into the army: they objected also to their children being made monitors, erroneously conceiving that their own time and learning were sacrificed to the teaching of others. Preposterous as such notions may appear to the better informed, the feelings of the parties should be considered before judgment is passed on them: but this would only lead to a review of the calamities of the past—let us hope a happier period may soon arrive, when the sorrows and resentments still too prevalent shall be forgotten. Catholic parents ought to have every assurance, that no interference with the *creed* of their children is intended; when this point is placed beyond suspicion, the best effects have never failed to result; but when and wherever the narrow principle of exclusion, or that of conversion, has been adopted, the efforts, however sincere, of the promoters of such seminaries, have produced at the best very limited good. A beautiful *Church*, at the entrance of the park, has also been erected by the present noble possessor. Its architecture deserves attention, and the interior is characterised by an elegant simplicity. The windows being of ground glass, a dead and solemn light is created, very appropriate to a sacred edifice; and a very judicious improvement upon the common plan, is the position of the pulpit on one side of the communion-table, by means of which the whole congre-



gation are brought within view of the minister. A family mausoleum adjoins the church, and at a short distance is the parsonage-house, exhibiting every appearance of comfort. Besides these buildings, the country is indebted for the *Bridge of Ballycock*, in a great measure, to Lord Sunderlin. By this a communication is obtained with Granard, in Longford, by which the inhabitants of a large extent of country are no longer under the necessity of taking a circuit of five or six miles Irish, in order to dispose of their produce at that town. In all these improvements, appear evidences of that benevolent consideration, the fruits of which are as pleasing to the eye as they are gratifying to the heart.*

At *Mitchelstown* is the seat of R. S. Tighe, Esq.; and the general appearance of the district between this vicinity and Trim, is much enlivened by numerous others, with the plantations attached to them. Wood, however, is still generally wanting, to what were otherwise a most lovely district; and yet its growth is here so rapid, that the encouragement to plant can no where be exceeded. The luxuriant growth of the shrubs attracts equal surprise and admiration; and perhaps a spot could not easily be found, more favourable to the increase of every species of the vegetable world.

Reynella, on the Mullingar road, is the residence of Mrs. Reynell, a lady who, upon the premature death of the late Mr. Reynell, followed up those plans of improvement, by which her husband had obtained a distinguished rank among the ameliorators of Ireland. The decease of Mr. R. was indeed a public loss. By increasing the demand for labour, and thus creating a spirit of industry highly beneficial to the lower orders, (who entertained a due sense of their obligations, and acknowledged them with gratitude) this gentleman became at once their adviser, friend, and benefactor.

* See Curwen's Letters, vol. II.

When the Rebellion of 1798 first made its appearance, Mrs. Reynell was actively and anxiously employed in completing a sheet of water which had given employment to a great number of people. Conscious that the interests and happiness of the labouring classes in her neighbourhood had never been neglected, and confiding in the gratitude of some, and the common sense of the remainder, this lady had the intrepidity to remain in her mansion, and, putting arms into the hands of her servants, and being otherwise prepared to protect her property in case of emergency, she resolved to wait the event. It agreed with her anticipations. The veneration and attachment of the people proved her complete protection and defence, and she sustained not the slightest loss or injury of any description. "This circumstance," (says our highly respected authority* for this anecdote,) "furnishes another instance of Irishmen, who, though feeling no respect for the laws of their country, and thoroughly disregarding every personal consequence that might attach to the violation of them, were yet gratefully alive to the remembrance of obligations, and revolted at the idea of repaying their benefactors by lawless and inconsiderate violence. *A people, on whom consideration and kindness have such influence, are more to be pitied than condemned, when acting wrong.* Where many and real grievances exist, in any community, it cannot be surprising that they should be exaggerated, and, when fomented by mischievous parties, lead to the fatal adoption of measures for redress, that in the end do but augment the sufferings previously endured."

ATHBOY is a tolerable town, and has a large inn, possessing the accommodation of good post-horses. The country around is well enclosed, and the tillage better than ordinary. But, notwithstanding the fertility of the soil, and its great returns to the occupiers, the condition

* Mr. Curwen. See Letters, II. 266.

of the labourers bears no affinity to either: extreme privation and poverty are still the characteristics of their pitiable situation. We are not disposed to deny, that a modicum of happiness may be enjoyed even by a peasantry, whose whole existence argues a suspension of the chief possessions and privileges which in England teach the labourer self-respect, and, nationality will not prevent our adding, too frequently a bearish self-importance; we do not deny, that the Irishman and his family have very frequently *a plenty* of their ordinary food, which the English cottager as frequently has not; that the children are in consequence well formed and healthy, although a piece of sacking, tied on with a rope or hayband may be their only garment;* or that hilarity does sometimes preside over the feast of potatoes and buttermilk, at which, if the smoke permitted the exercise of vision, the parents, the children, the fowls, and the pig would be discovered equal sharers in the mess; we do not even deny the occasional predominance of such joys, as the tenderest and most devoted family attachment will, in all possible circumstances perhaps, inspire; but, in spite of these admissions, still is the situation of the poor Irishman such, as, since it evidently degrades him in his own eyes, must deprive him of that first and most rational source of happiness in the existing state of society—the consciousness of possessing equal rights, if not equal wealth, with the community of his fellow men.

St. Lucy, the property of Sir Benjamin Chapman, who keeps in hand a farm of near 6000 Irish acres, and *Ballinlough*, with its well wooded demesne, belonging to Sir Hugh O'Reilly, are seats in the neighbourhood of Athboy.

At TRIM, we again reach the Boyne, silently flowing on through weeds and rushes, and amidst a profusion of

* A circumstance we have repeatedly witnessed.

the *Nymphæa Alba*, or white water-lily. This is the shire-town of Meath, where the assizes are held, and possesses a handsome and strong-built *Gaol*, to which some recent additions have been made. It is governed by a portrieve, and town-clerk. The *Charter School*, for 60 girls, was liberally endowed by the late Earl of Mornington. A *Trophy* to the Duke of Wellington has been recently erected in this town: it is a Corinthian column, surmounted by a statue of the hero. Here, according to Mr. Archdall, were many religious foundations; St. Patrick, so early as the year 432, having founded an Abbey of Canons Regular, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and built on a piece of ground given for that purpose by Fethlemid, the son of Laoghaire, and grandson of Niall. The steeple, usually called the Yellow Steeple, of which a conspicuous fragment still remains, was a lofty, handsome, square tower, the remainder of which was demolished by Oliver Cromwell, against whom it held out a considerable time as a garrison. This church possessed an image of the Virgin, which, notwithstanding the celebrity it had obtained in the performance of miracles, and the many pilgrimages and offerings consequently made to it, was publicly burned in the year 1538.—The Grey Friary was dedicated to St. Bonaventure, and generally called the Observantine Friary of Trim. It has been disputed whether it owed its foundation to King John, or to the family of Plunket. In 1330, a great part of the building was undermined by the waters of the Boyne, and fell to the ground. Father Richard Plunket, who wrote an Irish Dictionary, now in the Public Library of Dublin, resided in this convent; on a part of the site of which the present Sessions-house has been erected.—The Dominican Friary, situated near the gate leading to Athboy, was founded in honour of the Virgin Mary, A. D. 1263, by Geoffrey de Geneville, Lord of Meath. The same Geoffrey, in the year 1308, resigned the lordship of

Meath to Roger de Mortimer, the rightful heir, and entered himself a friar of this monastery, wherein he died, and was buried in 1314. Many others of his family were also interred here.—The Priory of Crossbearers, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was founded by one of the Bishops of Meath, and his successors in the see were among its greatest benefactors. We are told that this was a truly magnificent building; and it is probable, that the parliaments of Trim were held in the great hall of this house, or perhaps in the Dominican friary: one of their enactments was, ‘that the Irish should not wear shirts stained with saffron.’—Here also was a Convent of Nuns.—And an ancient church was called the Church of the Grecians; which, Mr. Archdall thought, might be some proof that the Grecians of old made a settlement in this kingdom.—We also find, in the parish-church of St. Patrick in this town, a Perpetual Chantry of Three Priests.

Trim Castle, on the banks of the Boyne, forms a pleasing subject for the pencil. “This,” says Sir R. C. Hoare, “is almost the only building I have seen in Ireland, that deserves the appellation of *castle*; the generality of buildings so called are only small forts, resembling each other very much in the style of their architecture. The natives, perhaps, whose eyes have not been accustomed, as mine have, to view with rapture the stately fabrics of Conway, Caernarvon, and Harlech, may think this remark fastidious; but, in comparison with the English, Welch, and Scotch castles, and as far as my observation has extended in this country, I cannot allow it to be ill-founded.” Originally erected by Hugh de Lacy, to secure his large possessions in Meath, or, as Camden asserts, by William Peppard, previously to the grant of Meath to De Lacy, this castle continued during successive centuries to be the most important stronghold of the English pale. According to an historical fragment by Maurice Regan, published by Harris, in his

‘Hibernica,’ Hugh de Lacy, on completing the building, departed for England, leaving it in the custody of Hugh Tyrrell, ‘his intrinsicke freind.’ The King of Connaught, taking advantage of De Lacy’s absence, assembled all his powers, with a view to its destruction; and though Tyrrell, advised of his coming, dispatched messengers to Strongbow for assistance, and though the Earl marched towards Trim in all haste, yet Tyrrell, seeing the enemy at hand, and thinking himself too weak to resist their numbers abandoned the castle, and burnt it; upon which the Irish monarch, satisfied with the success of his expedition, returned home. Strongbow, however, pursued him, and, falling upon the rear of his army, slew 150 of the Irish; which done, he retired to Dublin, and Hugh Tyrrell to the ruined castle of Trim, to re-edify it before Hugh de Lacy should return from England.

In 1221, the province of Meath being much harassed by private dissensions between Hugh de Lacy, son and successor of the original Palatine, and William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, “Trim,” says Ware, “was besieged, and brought to lamentable plight; and when the rage and fury of their broils were somewhat abated, to prevent the like in future, the Castle of Trim was built:” (that is, rebuilt, and in a much stronger manner, upon the ruins of the old one.) Here, in 1399, Richard the Second, who was then in Ireland, hearing of the progress of the Duke of Lancaster in his English dominions, imprisoned the sons of his rival and of the Duke of Gloucester; the former of whom was afterwards drowned on his passage to England. In 1423, Edmund Mortimer, Earl of Meath and Ulster, who had possessed the inheritance of Trim, and, as Lord Lieutenant of the island, had enjoyed more than customary authority in that office, died of the plague in this castle.

During the rebellious and troublesome reign of the unfortunate Charles I. the town of Trim became again a

scene of tumult and disorder. In 1641, it was, with the castle, surprised by the insurgents, but retaken the next year by Sir Charles Coote, 'a gallant gentleman, whose very name was a terror to the Irish,' according to Ledwich; but who has been by another writer more justly described as 'a soldier of fortune, trained in the wars of Elizabeth, morose, cruel, and inveterately hostile to the Irish, particularly on account of depredations on his lands.*' Being 'employed in petty expeditions,' he had previously taken Wicklow castle, 'but sullied his victory by an unprovoked and indiscriminate carnage, which rivalled in atrocity the excesses of the northerns;' he had 'committed some ravages and indiscriminate slaughters, at Santry and Clontarf, and had wasted the country around Swords without mercy;' but he ended his remorseless career at Trim; for, pursuing in the dark a party of the enemy, who had been repulsed in an attempted surprisal of the place, he received a shot, 'whether from his own men or from the enemy was never known, and expired.' 'His body,' continues the antiquarian just mentioned, 'was brought to Dublin, and there interred with great solemnity; *floods of English tears* accompanying him to the grave!'

In the immediate neighbourhood of Trim, occur the ruins of two more monastic edifices, besides those in the town itself, which have been described; the *Priory of Newtown*, north of the Boyne, and another, dedicated to *St. John the Baptist*, on the opposite side of the river. The former was founded in 1206, for Canons Regular of St. Victor, by Simon de Rochefort, Bishop of Meath, who afterwards converted the church into a cathedral, under the invocation of St. Peter and St. Paul. Here were made, by this prelate, in 1216, the remarkable constitutions which changed village bishoprics into rural deaneries: the canons of this synod are to be found in

* *Gordon's Hist. of Ireland*, I. 197.

Wilkins's Councils. Bishop Simon died in 1224, and was interred in the large old church, the remains of which still exist. Mr. Archdall, and Dr. Ledwich, following him, notice an ancient tomb, said to have been placed here for a daughter of King John. Upon which Sir Richard Hoare remarks, "I own this escaped my observation; but I observed another altar-tomb, exposed to the rude elements, on which there were the recumbent effigies of a male and female figure, habited in the costume of Queen Elizabeth's time. On its base is an inscription, which I had not time to decypher; but I am told, by a gentleman of the country, that this monument was erected to the memory of two personages of the Roscommon family."

The ruins of the *Priory of St. John the Baptist* partake of the castellated style of architecture, and are very considerable; and, as they adjoin a bridge over the Boyne, form an interesting group in connection with that object and the river. The Priory was erected in the thirteenth century for Crouched Friars; and the Bishops of Meath were either its founders or most liberal benefactors. The remains of these monasteries are seen on the road from Trim to the Black Bull Inn, a single house at the point where it unites with the mail-coach road to Navan and Kells: on crossing the Boyne, the ruins of a square fort, having circular turrets at the angles, appear on the left; they are called *Scurloughstown Castle*. The ruins of a *Church* also nearly adjoin. This whole road is flat, and, unless as regards the objects named, uninteresting: miserable hovels continually recur to hurt the feelings of the compassionate traveller.

A pleasant drive from Trim to SUMMER HILL conducts through a tract of country studded with the seats of the nobility and gentry, but affording little variety as to its state of cultivation: the road is more than usually excellent. Summer Hill gives the title of baron to the family of Rowley; now represented by Viscount Lang-

ford, and contains the beautiful *Seat* of his lordship. The mansion was burned down some years since, and it is only a part of that fine edifice, which is now in his lordship's occupancy.

Taking the road to Navan, the tourist will not proceed more than three miles, before he is presented with a view of the ruins of *Bective Abbey*, standing commandingly on a high bank of the Boyne. They consist of a tower, with projecting angles, and the cloisters, both almost entire, together with parts of the walls of the church. Their outline is picturesque; to the full as castellated in appearance as monastic. The Abbey was founded, either in 1146 or 1152, for Cistercian monks, by Murchard O'Melaghlin, king of Meath, and called the Abbey *de Beatitudine*, from which Bective appears to be a corruption. Hugh de Lacy, the great palatine of Meath, who, while attending the building of Dervath or Durrow Castle, in King's County, and stooping forward to give directions, was slain by one O'Chahargy, a labourer at the work, was interred with much solemnity in this abbey in 1195. The ruffian had seized his opportunity to sever the head completely from the body of the unfortunate man; and, after being long detained by the Irish, the latter was buried here, as has been mentioned; but the former, by direction of Matthew O'Heney, archbishop of Cashel, then apostolic legate, and John, archbishop of Dublin, was deposited in the Abbey of St. Thomas in that city. Much controversy between the monks of Bective and the canons of St. Thomas ensued, concerning the right to the body of De Lacy; till at length Simon de Rochefort, bishop of Meath, and his archdeacon, together with Gilbert, prior of Duleek, being appointed by Pope Innocent the Third to decide the matter, sentence was given in favour of the Abbey of St. Thomas. The possessions of this religious house were ample: when the Abbot, who sat as a baron in parliament, surrendered to Henry the Eighth, he was

found seized of a church, hall, cloister, with other buildings; 205 acres of arable land, as a demesne, in Bective; a water-mill and fishing-wier on the Boyne; the rectory of Bective; and much land, of the value of £22 6s. 8d. besides all reprises.

From hence to Navan, the road leads through an increasingly productive corn country. A little to the left, as we approach this town, is *Ardbraccan*, distinguished by the beautiful *Palace* of the Bishops of Meath, which is allowed to be, if not the first, certainly the second ecclesiastical residence in Ireland. It will prove a lasting monument of the genius and liberality of that munificent, truly pious, and charitable personage, Dr. Henry Maxwell, late bishop of this see; who expended very considerable sums of his private property in its erection, in a manner suited to his refined taste, as well as in laying out the extensive gardens, and fencing, improving, planting, and ornamenting that part of the see-lands adjacent. Of these lands a very considerable portion is not mensal. When, therefore, Bishop Maxwell was advised to make a lease of this portion, in trust, for the benefit of some member of his family, the generous prelate declined it; observing, that as he had built a princely residence for the use of his successors the Bishops of Meath, so he would leave them the uncontrolled and unlimited power over a princely domain annexed to it, for their amusement and accommodation. In the garden, cedars of Lebanon, and the Papyrus of the Nile, (the latter apparently not differing much from the common flags,) both brought over by Dr. Pocock, formerly Bishop of Ossory, are still preserved.

The spire and vane, surmounting the old square *Tower** in the church yard of Ardbraccan, and forming

* This tower is perhaps, a remnant of the *Abbey* formerly existing here; from St. Braccan, an abbot of which, who died in 650,

a pleasing relief to the eye, fatigued by the general flatness of this part of the country, were reared besides in Bishop Maxwell's time. In the church-yard is also a *Monument*, to the memory of Bishop Montgomery, the figures on which, representing the bishop, his wife, and daughter, are some of the rudest productions of the chisel that can well be conceived. Under the figures on the pedestal are the words *SURGES, MORIERIS, JUDICABERIS*; and over them a Latin inscription, purporting, that the monument having suffered from the devastations of time, or sacrilegious hands, was repaired in the year 1750; and that the bishop, who was of the house of Eglinton, was promoted to the see in 1610, and died in 1620. The original inscription, which is on the east side, appearing as on the two opposite pages of a book, is to the following purpose:

Deo & Episcopo Midensi posuit Georgius Montgomerius Scotobritannus divina providentia Episcopus Midensis and Clogherensis; ætatis suæ 51.

This, if written with any precision, shews either the low state of ecclesiastical revenues at that time in Ireland, if, for the support of one bishop, it was found necessary to unite two of the richest sees, or that the weak and pusillanimous James indulged in Ireland also his passion for accumulating preferments upon favourites. On the same side is a bust, with three plumes, surmounted by a mitre; and over the mitre, a cup, with the sacramental bread or wafer used in the church of Rome: underneath the bust are two swords, crossed, interspersed with fleurs de lis, and under all, "1614."

On the west side is an angel, sounding a trumpet, a shield with armorial bearings and the motto "*non nobis nati*," and underneath "*REPOSE. S. M.*" (Sarah Mont-

the place is named. It was one of the many ancient bishoprics now forming the diocese of Meath; and in 1641 was a place of considerable strength.

gomery, the bishop's wife.) The shield on this side also is surmounted by a cup, and the sacramental bread or wafer; the latter, a device so unsuitable to the tomb of a Protestant bishop, as to leave room for a conjecture, that the reparation of the monument falling into unskilful hands, a part of some memorial to a bishop who lived in times anterior to the Reformation, was made an addition to this. The manner in which this part of the work is fitted to the rest, seems to countenance such a conjecture; which besides derives support from an inscription surrounding the cup, in a character different from that of the other inscriptions, and indeed far from easily legible. Supposing, however, these devices to form a part of the monument as it originally stood, it affords proof that Protestantism was at that time by no means firmly established in Ireland.

South of this monument, appears a small *Slab*, in memory of that great and singular traveller, Bishop Pocock. By a strange fatality, it has fallen to the lot of a most 'unlettered muse,' to record the place where are deposited the remains of a most amiable and learned prelate, whose thirst after knowledge prompted him to encounter so many labours and dangers. The *Church* here, is perhaps one of the handsomest country churches in Ireland: in the erection of which also the munificence of Bishop Maxwell was evinced, it having been reared under his auspices, and liberally subscribed to from his purse.

Remains of various castles are found in this neighbourhood: the principle of which, *Liscarton Castle*, was formerly, it is said, a monastery, and is situated to the right of the great north-western road, which leads through Navan to Kells. The loop-holes, adapted to the cross-bow, shew that it was built before that weapon came into disuse. The outworks appear to have been formerly considerable; but all that now remains of them is a gateway, about 60 yards distant from the main edifice.

Their site, however, is still plainly discoverable on the eastern side of the building; although, on the other sides, no evidences of them remain. A part of the principal structure at present constitutes the residence of Thomas Gerrard, Esq.

Little now exists of the *Fort*, or *Moat*, of Liscarton; though what remains was probably the citadel (if that expression may be adopted) of an extensive fortification, which comprised within its circuit an area of four or five acres. It is situated on the banks of the Blackwater. There is another fort on the lands of Allenstown, and a conical moat on those of Meadstown, on the verge of the bog so called, which, if planted, would somewhat interest the observation, in glancing over a peculiarly bleak and dreary region. The bog above mentioned, with those of Allenstown, Aungenstown, and Tullaghanstown, form an extensive and continuous trace westward of Ardbraccan.

The limestone quarry at this place, called the *White Quarry*, demands particular notice. The produce when chiselled, is of a beautiful whitish colour; if polished, it assumes a greyish hue; and, if long exposed to the air, contracts a tint approaching to black, but may be restored to its original white colour by re-chiselling—an operation, however, that must evidently, in process of time, injure the solidity of any building constructed with it. The See House is of this stone; and there is reason to believe that the quarry has been worked for some centuries, as the quoins and most of the window frames of Liscarton Castle appear to be of the same material. The stone-cutting trade in the neighbourhood of the White Quarry, naturally varies much with times and circumstances: the predominant occupation, independent of agricultural labours, is linen-weaving; and there are a few cotton looms dispersed around. The *Charter-School* of Ardbraccan, an institution in no respect differing from the other establishments of its kind in Ireland, has a work-shop,

containing 12 of these looms, in which the children (60 of whom may be accommodated within the walls) are employed between three and four hours each day.

With very few exceptions, the lower orders of Protestants, throughout this vicinity, are tradesmen; and by far the greater number of the Roman-catholic population are employed in agriculture. The Protestants are observed to dress more neatly, and fare more generously, than their Romish brethren of even higher rank and greater wealth. But dress is in general a very slight indication of differences in circumstances, the appearance of farmers and day-labourers being much alike; potatoes, oaten-bread, and stirabout, with or without butter-milk, and occasionally butter and eggs, constituting the almost universal diet. But few of the poorer sort ever partake of animal food; the small farmers even seldom tasting it, except on festival days, family feasts, and other solemn occasions. The usual apparel consists of home-manufactured frize; and young or old men, of the farming and labouring classes, are not fashionably dressed, even in the dog-days, except, over a frize-coat, and perhaps a frize-waistcoat, they wear a great outside coat, called a *trusty*. This garment, though cumbersome, unwieldy, and an impediment to every exertion, appears to be the pride of manhood, and the hope of youth, in this and other parts of Ireland; it is with the utmost difficulty, whatever may be the employment of the peasant, that he can be persuaded to lay it aside; and, be the wearer ever so stout or so athletic, he is lost in the capacity of his *trusty*. As to the dwellings, those of the more substantial farmers are rarely comfortable: and those of the petty farmers and labourers commonly stamped with all the attributes of wretchedness so prevalent in the appearance of the hovels of Meath. Wealth and complete poverty are the extremes only of a more improved state of society; but here it is difficult to discover any medium. The genius of the poorest, however, is in general acute, and their

disposition kind: the language most in use is the Irish, or rather a jargon compounded of that and the English together.

There is a *Patron*, as it is called, annually held in this neighbourhood, (near Martry-mill, on the banks of the Blackwater) on the 15th of August, that being the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Patron-days are very commonly celebrated in Ireland: they mean days set apart as festivals, either of a religious nature, or as mere occasions for hilarity, and dedicated to the honour of the saint whose name they bear. No religious ceremony of any kind takes place at this particular meeting; but the custom on which it is founded is probably of very high antiquity. Tradition says, that Telltown, (Tailtean) situated on the other side of the Blackwater, was the residence of a long line of Irish princes; and the site of a celebrated annual mart, frequented by merchants, as well as by persons distinguished for excellence in mental or personal endowments; when it became the point of union for all the talent, beauty, and virtue of the surrounding country. At this renowned emporium, games similar to the Olympian are described to have been held for 15 days before, and 15 days after, the 1st of August; and the time appointed for this grand festival was also that commonly chosen for giving young people in marriage. Allowing this account any portion of credibility the present patron, may possibly be derived from a custom boasting such eminent antiquity: but, however this may be, we are disposed to put somewhat more faith in this and other traditions, not manifestly absurd, than the pride of modern learning, which can accept only of written authorities, is wont to do; for, after making every deduction from tales of this nature for poetical amplification, we are still doubtful whether the wildest possible tradition could have grown out of an absolute nullity, since we firmly believe perfect invention to be a thing without the limits of human

ability, and foreign to the human heart. Another patron, of the religious kind, was formerly held on the lands of Martry, on the 1st of February, at a cross, dedicated to St. Bridget. Multitudes of pious catholics assembled at this cross, to offer up their supplications to the holy personage. The custom has, it seems, been for some years discontinued; but a considerable number of the popish clergy continue to assemble, and perform the rites of their religion, on the saint's day, at a farmer's house near where the cross was situated.

The system of agriculture pursued in the district between Athboy and Ardracran—precisely that to which we are now directing our remarks—is considered by Mr. Curwen to be ‘the best, generally speaking, that he had seen in Ireland:’ yet the great modern improvement in English agriculture, the turnip husbandry, appears to be almost unknown. It is usual here to plough up lay-land, that is considered of middling or bad quality, for oats; when, according to its quality, it may produce two, three, or four crops of this grain before it is found necessary to fallow it. After fallowing, it generally produces a crop of wheat, and then successive crops of oats, until it again becomes necessary to renew it. In the same manner vetches are sometimes sown, as a substitute for fallowing. Some farmers *pill-fallow* their lands: that is, after the first crop of wheat is stacked, they immediately plough up the land for a second; but this practice (it is not always the case) is, in this part of the country, considered as ruinous and destructive. In regard to land of what is called good quality, it is customary, after potatoes, to sow it with a crop of bere; and then one, perhaps a second, of wheat, &c. In lay lands of prime quality, one or two crops of potatoes are first sown, and then successive crops of oats, until fallowing becomes necessary; then comes wheat, &c. As oats seldom fail, the poorer farmers in general sow them immediately after potatoes. Rape seeds are

sometimes sown in fallows, particularly for laying down the land. Clover seeds are sown in wheat lands, for the double purpose of invigorating the soil, and affording food for horses, sheep, &c. The rent of land here varies from under 2£. to upwards of 4£. per (Irish) acre.*

Before taking leave of Arddraccan, it were unpardonable to omit noticing, "that it would be difficult to place a princely revenue under the administration of a philanthropist who, in its judicious disposal, would display greater benevolence and urbanity than the (present) Bishop of Meath."† The attention paid by his lordship to the comforts of the surrounding cotters, is highly creditable to his feelings and humanity; and his exertions to encourage agriculture, and promote the reformation of abuses in the church establishment, are equally commendable. Disorders, it cannot be disguised, had long prevailed in the established church, which had been a source of the deepest regret to its friends: yet the obstacles to their removal were many and powerful. But, notwithstanding the odium and unpopularity attending the attempt, the Bishop has accomplished much. More than 30 churches and parsonage-houses have been rebuilt or repaired; and the strictness with which residence is now enforced, has obtained his lordship the approbation of every candid individual. Whether these measures may have the effect of promoting the cause of Protestantism, is a distinct consideration; and one, as we venture to submit, comparatively very unimportant; but, as they have a tendency to remove a stigma from the establish-

* For the greater part of these particulars relative to Arddraccan and its vicinity, we are indebted to the account of the parish by the Rev. R. Moore, rector, and the Rev. T. Toomy, curate, inserted in the "Parochial Survey."

† Curwen's Letters, II. 178.

ment, they are doubtless of the very first consequence, and their utility must remain unquestionable.

NAVAN, on the Boyne, is a tolerable town, anciently in high repute, and a palatinate: it was walled by Hugh de Lacy. “An Abbey for Regular Canons was erected here under the invocation of the Virgin Mary: whether it existed before the end of the twelfth century we are at a loss to determine; but, about that period, it was either founded or re-edified by Josceline de Angulo, or Nangle. In the burial-ground are the remains of many ancient tombs, with figures in alto-relievo; and the present *Horse-barrack* is erected on the site of the Abbey.* Here is a *School*, founded by Alderman John Preston in 1686. The *Tholsel* is a respectable stone-building. Within these few years, Navan has become a considerable market for grain, in consequence of the facilities afforded to its transportation to Drogheda, by means of improvements effected in the navigation of the Boyne (with which the Blackwater here unites) by locks between these places. Mr. Curwen speaks in terms of praise of the spirited exertions of Mr. Matthew Codd, a gentleman largely concerned in the distilleries at Drogheda, who has “not only greatly contributed towards promoting the corn trade at Navan, but has set the neighbourhood a good example in the management of a farm he occupies, and in the use of the Scotch cart, which he has the merit of introducing.†

At our Inn in this place, which is good and provides post-horses, we saw a book, apparently placed in the way of the traveller for his entertainment, purporting to be a translation of a ‘History of the Revolution in France,’ the tendency of which was highly jacobinical, and probably afforded a specimen of the works so industriously spread throughout this country during

* Archdall’s *Monast. Hibern.* p. 558.

† *Letters* II. 170.

the prevalence of the revolutionary mania. A note appended by the Editor to some violently democratical remark—" *That is true, faith! Bravo!*"—was amusing. Of the present state of public feeling in Ireland, we profess ourselves wholly unqualified to pass a general opinion: political sentiments, particularly if their expression be inimical to the interests, or likely to compromise the personal safety of men, usually lie too deep to be obvious to those who have the most favourable opportunities, and the strongest desire, to become acquainted with them; how much more difficult, then, must their investigation prove to the temporary resident, or general traveller? Besides, the native cunning of the lower Irish would in most cases completely baffle the stranger's enquiries of this nature, however sagaciously disguised by his method of proposing them: yet not by *appearing* to penetrate the veil in which the state partizan might attempt to enshroud himself, would the attack be disconcerted by its object; but, by a refinement of art, the utmost apparent simplicity would conceal the fullest perception of the designs of the querist, and the readiest information be seemingly brought forward, where none was actually afforded. Are there then no means of obtaining a knowledge of this point, besides attention to the *language* of the inhabitants?—may be perhaps asked by the inquisitive reader: is not the *countenance*, in most instances, a mirror of the heart?—and, upon general principles, deduced from the common history of nations, may not the political sentiments of a people be inferred from their actual *state*? There are those—and we believe they are neither the worst logicians, nor the most lukewarm lovers of their country—who would answer these questions tremblingly. For he must have travelled in Ireland with his observation but little directed to this subject, who has not traced even in the features of the peasantry, when *not* illumined by the animation of discourse, and *not* smoothed by the expression of their na-

tural urbanity, a distinctive character—as marked as ever stamped a national similarity on the faces of a people—which can only be described as speaking a sullen, though patiently settled gloom. Every where in Ireland, we meet with lengthened and pale if not darkened visages, the indexes to the minds of men employed in the common agricultural labours, which, contrasted with the ruddy open countenances of English rustics, might appear to the traveller from the latter country those of banditti, of beings detached from civilized society, and ready for the perpetration of any attack upon its legal institutions, rather than of men constituting the far greater portion of a population united under an established form of lawful government. We need scarcely remark, that a general conclusion of the latter nature would be egregiously false; though it must be admitted that outrages too frequently occur in this country, backed by numbers unprecedented in the commission of similar crimes in England. What, then, upon the whole, is to be inferred from these facts? The question is too ample to be discussed in this place; and did we not conceive it one of abstract political economy, rather than as one involving the conduct of the *present* government of the country in any shape, we should perhaps wholly abstain from its consideration. But the present government may do, and we really think has done, much, to remedy the evils which it had no hand in producing: in this light we submit the present remarks; trusting that, it and all who have power and influence in the country, will continue to do more as more shall appear necessary to be accomplished. The national distinction we have just drawn between the peasantry of the two countries—to what is it to be ascribed, if not to national differences in their situation, as respects their domestic comforts, and the relation they stand in to their superiors? The English tourist in Ireland must have indeed shut his eyes, if the use of the faculty of vision

alone has not convinced him, that, in both these points of view, (notwithstanding the legal institutions are the same) the condition of the Irish labouring classes is infinitely below that of the English. But long must such a state of things have existed in a country, and grievous, during that long period, must have been its endurance, ere it could have affixed a national portraiture on a considerable body of the people: yet the history of the world teaches, that the continuance of the degradation of a majority in any country cannot be for ever; and who, that really prizes the blessings of order and civil union, but must view with alarm a population rapidly increasing under such circumstances, unless he also perceives the enlightened and the wise of every Christian denomination stepping forward with liberal views toward the *gradual*, but still *unceasingly-progressive* amelioration of their inferiors, rather than attempting to crush the discontents they will use no efforts to prevent, by violent means, the resources only of weak and timid minds, and which the experience of past ages proves are ever ultimately unavailing? “Privations to the extent endured in Ireland,” says a manly and ingenious British senator,* “*must* produce discontent, the parent of disloyalty and disaffection; and however the great, the glorious work of reform in this most beautiful island may be deferred, it *must* be seriously undertaken, to prevent those fatal consequences which await procrastination.—The inefficacy of force has been manifested by the experience of centuries. Coercion, sustained by an overwhelming military power, by depopulating the country, might produce a temporary calm; but it is the last expedient which ought to be resorted to for the attainment of permanent order, and obedience to the laws and civil authorities.” Happy are we to believe, that the resident gentlemen of every religious persuasion

* Mr. Curwen.—Letters II. 281.

in Ireland, at once possessed of talent and of philanthropy, and entirely coinciding with these sentiments, are numerous, and, we would fain believe, active: may their exertions be speedily followed by the effects they anticipate, which will prove their most appropriate reward!

We were led to these reflections, both by the little incident just mentioned, and by the information of a townsman, that the mail was stopped between this place and Dunshaughlin, on the Dublin road, a few years back, by a party of men, who, whether they succeeded in their attempt or not (for we have no accurate recollection of the circumstances) were formidable by their numbers, at least, to a degree that makes the idea of the state of a country, in which so many associates could be found in such a design, eminently fearful. Instances of these attacks have in Ireland unfortunately been too common; and sometimes not less than several hundred desperadoes have been known to act in concert for the achievement of their enterprise:—could that number of men, in any periods of distress, be induced to congregate, for such a purpose, in England?

The great road leading through Navan, to Kells, we did not travel on this, but on a former occasion; when we much remarked the numerous gentlemens' seats occurring in its vicinity, but were at the same time pained to observed that the cabins of the poor were in no respect less miserable.

A walk of five miles from Navan, along the north bank of the Boyne, as far as Slane Castle, the point to which we had conducted the reader in the excursion from Drogheda, will amply repay the trouble of the tourist. Mr. Curwen, who pursued the road between these places, noticed in its vicinity 'some very good farming.' No one, who has not *pedestrianised* his detour, would suppose that so many natural beauties could lie hid within a short distance of the river's brink. Beside

attending to which, an opportunity will be afforded for inspecting the ruined *Church* and *Round Tower*, of **DONAGHMORE**, occurring on an eminence to the left.

The Church, it is probable, was in former ages attached to the Abbey of which Mr. Archdall speaks, when he tells us that "St. Patrick founded an abbey here, called *Biletortain*, over which he placed St. Justin: it was afterwards named *Domnach-tortain*, and now *Donaghmore*. The Abbot Robertagh, the son of Flinn, died A. D. 843."

The Round Tower, rising from a projecting plinth, is in height 70 feet; and its circumference, four feet from the base, about 60. The doorway, on the east side, is six feet from the ground; on the key-stone is sculptured a representation of Christ suffering on the cross; a fact which, according to Sir Richard Hoare, "will at once overturn the ingenious system of General Vallancey, and prove these buildings to have been of *Christian*, not of *Pagan*, origin." We have already expressed our opinion, that many, nay doubtless the majority, of the Round Towers in Ireland, were erections of Christian times; and the figure described assuredly evinces this at Donaghmore to have been such; but we cannot conceive the occurrence of such an emblem upon a *single* round tower in this country, a species of proof in anywise applicable to them *all*. The probability, as we before ventured to suggest, is, that these structures are of ages almost as various as the theories respecting them: or, at the least, that some were erected before, and many after, the propagation of Christianity in the island: the passion for establishing a theory by generalizing, or by *compelling* individual facts and circumstances to square with one sweepingly-inclusive idea, is peculiarly apt to prove delusive in regard to antiquities. This Round Tower is nearly perfect, a portion only of the stone roof having fallen in.

Athlumney and *Asigh Castles* are both contiguous to

the Boyne, but higher up the river, and on its opposite bank. The former, a large irregular mass of building, in form somewhat approaching an oblong square, stands about a quarter of a mile south of the town of Navan. Projecting square towers appear at the east and west ends; and the walls, and divisions of the apartments, yet remain entire.

Asigh Castle commands an extensive southward view of the hills of Tarah and Skryne: in every other direction, nearer hills confine the prospect. Though scarcely any thing but a square tower of this castle is now to be seen, many circumstances induce the belief that the building was formerly considerable. To the north, about 30 yards distant, appear the ruins of a small chapel.

Proceeding on our way to Dublin, the road to the village of SKRYNE occurs, soon after leaving Navan, on the left. "This place, in former times," says Mr. Archdall, "was called *Scrinium St. Columbæ*, from the shrine of that saint, which in the year 875 was brought from Britain into Ireland, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Danes. In the year 1175, Adam De Feypo erected a castle in this town.—The abbey of regular canons was plundered by the Ostmen, A. D. 1207.—In 1341, the Lord Francis de Feypo granted to the Eremitic Friars of the order of St. Augustine a piece of ground adjacent to his park, for the space and term of 99 years, at the rent of a pepper-corn annually. The ruins of this building, situated near the church, may still be seen.—The same Lord de Feypo founded here, about the year 1342, a perpetual chantry."*

The *Church* of Skryne is old, and in bad repair; and as the site is inconvenient, the parishioners have been some years preparing a fund for building one on a more central spot. On account of the elevated situation of this building, the tourist may enjoy from the belfry a most

* *Monast. Hibern.* p. 569.

extensive and delightful view of the surrounding country. The edifice is in a general state of dilapidation, with the exception of a chapel at the east end, in which service is performed. Over the south door is the figure of an ecclesiastic, in relief, holding a book in his hand. A little to the north-east stands a cross, the sculptures defaced; and there are several falling crosses, and antique tomb-stones.

The ancient family of Marwood possessed the title of Baron of Skryne in the fifteenth century, and until the time of Elizabeth; when Walter, the last baron, died, leaving an only daughter, Genet, who married William Nugent, younger son of Richard, Lord Delvin; but, by the pedigree of the family of Dillon, it appears, that Sir James Dillon, third son of Gerald, Lord of Drumrany, acquiring, about the year 1400, a large estate near Tarah, in this vicinity, built his mansion-house of Proudstown, and a castle, with a parochial church, in his manor of Skryne.

There are none, acquainted with ancient Irish history, but will approach the *Hill of Tarah* with recollections of its fame in the 'olden time;' but whether those recollections are accompanied with the elevated sympathy we bestow on objects enhaloed with historic rays—beaming on the 'mighty fallen,' and greatness sleeping in the dust—or whether such reminiscences are repelled from the mind with true sceptical contempt, will depend on opinions and ideas previously formed. For, on the one hand, the bards, and old historians, of Ireland, celebrate this place for its triennial parliaments; for its *Teaghmor*, or great house, wherein those parliaments assembled; for its sumptuous palaces, and spacious buildings, the residences of a long and illustrious line of monarchs;—and, on the other, many ingenious and learned writers treat all these things as 'airy nothings,' as the mere imaginations of the poets, or the senseless rhapsodies of enthusiastic historians, because—because, what reader?—because

it can be proved, to the general satisfaction very probably, that the palaces of Tarah were not built with *stone*! Dr. Campbell, for one, “declares that he more than once examined the Hill of Tarah, and was convinced there never was a castle of lime and stone upon it. There were indeed five or six circular entrenchments, like Danish forts, in which the Irish monarchs might have pitched their tents.”* The supposition that the magnificence of Tarah consisted in buildings ‘of lime and stone’ is very possibly erroneous; but, as we have elsewhere surmised, a considerable degree of elegance might attach to structures less substantial; while either a reservation might be made of stone for certain religious edifices, or, from its abundance, it might be little prized for architecture of the ornamental kind. Hollinshed observes: “There is in Meath a hill, called the hill of Tarah, wherein is a plain * * * * * which was named the Kempe, as a place that was accounted the high palace of the monarch. The Irish historians hammer many fables in this forge, (it were idle to dispute that much is fabulous in their histories) of Fin M’Coile and his champions, as the French historians doth of King Arthur and the knights of the round table. But doubtless the place *seemeth to bear the shew of an ancient and famous monument.*” Dr. Ledwich quotes this passage in confirmation of his opinions; from which it is plain, either that he chose to overlook the last sentence, or that his inferences from it are very dissimilar to our own. For though it may not be very apparent, of what nature Hollinshed conceived this ‘ancient and famous monument’ to be, and though we are not precisely informed as to what might be its ‘shew’ in his day, yet surely this extract countenances rather than disproves the idea, that some memorial of ancient Irish magnificence once marked the Hill of Tarah.—In later times, during the progress of the unhappy rebellion of

* Philosophical Survey of Ireland.

1798, a numerous band of insurgents was routed, on the evening of the 26th of May, upon this hill, by a body of 400 fencibles and yeomen. The earthen fort on its south side is usually considered to have been the work of Turgesius, the Danish chieftain, who for a series of years lorded it over the greater part of the island.

DUNSHAUGHLIN is a neat little town, with one or two clean and comfortable inns. Here St. Seachlan, nephew to St. Patrick, founded a church in 439: he died on the 27th of November, 448, and was interred on this spot. In the vicinity are *Dunsany* and *Killeen Castles*, seats of Lords Dunsany and Fingal. At *Brownstown*, also not far distant, a stratum of potter's clay has been discovered; considered equal, if not superior, to that of Staffordshire. The mansion of *Kilbrue*, in the same neighbourhood, handsome in itself, is also pleasantly situated: and, nearer Skryne, are the ruins of *Macetown Castle*.

At RATOATH, on the left, part of the walls, and the west window, of an abbey, which existed in 1456, remain; and, in its parish church of St. Thomas the Apostle, latterly called the church of the Holy Trinity, was a perpetual chantry of three priests, according to Archdall. Though but a poor village, this place, previously to the Union, returned two members to the Irish parliament. Near the church is a conspicuous *Mount*, on which Malachie the First, one of the ancient kings of Ireland, is said to have held a third convention of the states of the kingdom.

The *Black-bull Inn*, the single house before mentioned, at the angle where the road branches off to Trim, should it happen to be the first at which the traveller stops, who may be proceeding by the great north-western road from Dublin, will give him no very favourable idea of the inns in Ireland. One of the parlour windows here, still shews the trace of a bullet, shot into the room during the rebellion.

GREYOGUE, on the borders of Dublin county, westward from this spot, contains nothing interesting beyond its ruins of an ancient church. The general soil of this district is a very tenacious clay, under which strong blue limestone gravel is invariably found: cuts for draining must always be carried to this gravel, at whatever depth, or they are sure to prove ineffectual.

At **DUNBOYLE**, a village on the right, is the handsome Seat of Lord Gormanston. Its Fair, held on the 9th of July, is one of those in the vicinity of Dublin much frequented by the citizens. The well-known Matthew Dubourg, the friend of Handel, an eminent musician, is said to have visited this fair in the disguise of an itinerant fiddler, for the purpose of witnessing one of these scenes of Irish hilarity, of whose humours he had heard much. What followed was at once a proof of his own musical skill, and of the discrimination of the common Irish in musical excellence. He was soon engaged to play in a tent, and endeavoured to acquit himself in the discordant notes of the character he personated: but, like the lyre of Anacreon, his instrument would not utter the sounds he wished; and the dancers, arrested in their motions, suspended the jig, and crowded round him to catch the sweet tones they felt so irresistible. With some difficulty he escaped from their hospitality, and was not inclined to renew the experiment.

Almost immediately after passing *Clonoe Bridge*, over the Tolka, we re-enter Dublin county. Many mud cottages in ruins, in this neighbourhood and that of Malahudert, are yet existing evidences of the relentless fury which animated numbers of all parties, in the late sanguinary rebellion.—Our road now speedily conducting us to Castle Knock and the Phoenix Park, both already described, we omit farther mention of them; and request the Tourist's attention to our next Excursion, commenced from the point to which we have returned in this, the city of Dublin.

EXCURSION IX.

From Dublin to Lucan, as described; and through Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Cloncurry, Clonard, Kinnegad, Mullingar, Rathconrath, and Ballimore, to Athlone.

LEIXLIP, in the county of Kildare, is a romantic village on the Liffey, about eight miles from Dublin. The river is here thickly ornamented with gentlemen's seats; but they are in general so immured by lofty fences, that the passenger can scarcely obtain a glimpse of them. The village is altogether extremely prettily dispersed among its rural scenery, and affords many picturesque groupings of rock, wood, and water.

The cascade here, called the *Salmon Leap*, is a subject of more than common beauty for the pencil. On the rising ground overhanging the Liffey, on one side of it, is a magnificent old *Castle*, late the property of the Right Honourable Thomas Conolly; and near is the fine *Aqueduct* over the Royal Canal, described under that head.

Castletown, at a small distance, Mr. Conolly's seat, is one of the very finest country residences in Ireland, built by the father of the late occupant above-mentioned: it is surrounded with noble plantations, in addition to a charmingly wooded country.

The *Tepid Spring*, distant about a quarter of a mile north-west, was first discovered by the workmen employed in excavating for the Grand Canal, in 1793, by cutting into it; when it immediately issued in a narrow perpendicular stream from the bottom of the bed, to the astonishment and alarm of a labourer with whose naked leg it came in contact. The engineer communicating

the discovery to Mr. Conolly, on whose estate it was found, and some of the waters being sent to a well-known chemical professor to be analysed, a wine-gallon measure of it yielded the following contents:—Gaseous, at the heat of 212, Carb. acid gas, and atm. air, four cubic inches: Solid. Muriate of Soda, 30 grains; Lime, 23 grains; with a small quantity of sulphur of kali, magnesia, argillaceous and siliceous earths, and bituminous matter: heat of the water, 75½ degrees, Fahr. This water was recommended to the notice of the Canal Company, who secured the current of the spring by directing its course to the neighbouring bank, under which it was conveyed into a cistern, and the redundant water received in a basin, formed for the purposes of a bath. It was much used, particularly by the poor; and the spa at Leixlip was for some time the rival of that at Lucan. A rumour, however, was spread, that the original spring was lost; upon which, in 1803, it was highly recommended to the public, in a pamphlet published in Dublin by Ch. Fletcher, M. D. who denied the fact. It has, notwithstanding, greatly declined in reputation, and is now but little frequented.

At ST. WOLSTAN'S, two miles south-west, there are remaining two towers, and two large gateways, of a *Priory*, founded in 1202, by Adam de Hereford, in honour of St. Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester, then newly canonized. It was at that time a building of very considerable extent. At the Suppression, the site and lands were granted to Allen of Norfolk, Master of the Rolls, and afterwards Lord Chancellor; in whose family they continued till the year 1752; when, by a decree of the court of exchequer, they were sold; the purchaser being Dr. Robert Clayton, Bishop of Clogher, by whom they were bequeathed to his niece Anne, wife of Dr. Thomas Bernard, Bishop of Killaloe. One of the Allens, well known for his taste in architecture, and who planned

the noble house intended for the unfortunate Earl of Strafford at Jigginstown, in this county, erected the mansion now known by the name of St. Wolstan's, and which, by the considerable alterations and additions of the Right Reverend owner, has been rendered an elegant edifice.

CELBRIDGE, on the Liffey, is two miles and three-quarters, south-west. Here is a handsome stone *Bridge* over the river. The village is generally modern-built; and has at its lower extremity an elegant *Church*, lately erected by the parishioners in the room of a more ancient one, which had fallen to decay. While the building was going on, the inhabitants regularly attended divine service in a convenient apartment in the mansion-house of St. Wolstan, just mentioned. South of the place stand the remains of an *Abbey*, which, having been renovated as to its interior, has been converted into a comfortable habitation; but, externally, it still wears much of the monastic gloom appropriate to its former uses. An extensive *Woollen Manufactory* may be also visited.

CLANE, also on the Liffey, has a *Castle*, an extensive *Rath*, and the ruins of an *Abbey*.—"St. Ailbe (we are informed by Archdall) founded an abbey of regular canons here, and made St. Senchell, the elder, abbot of it: who afterwards removed to Killachad Dromfod, where he died on the 26th of March, A. D. 548.—A Franciscan *Friary* was erected here some time before the year 1266: some writers give the foundation to Gerald Fitz-Maurice, Lord Offaley, but this account is not confirmed. The effigies of the founder, (who he was is not certainly known) remained, about the beginning of the last century, on a marble monument, which was placed in the midst of the choir, in this Friary. The seal of this convent was in being in the beginning of the last century; on which was the following inscription: *Sigill. coiatis frum minor. de Clane. Hortus Angelorum.*"

Crossing the Royal Canal, we arrive, at the distance of two miles from Leixlip, at the town of MAYNOOTH, chiefly remarkable on account of the *Royal College of St. Patrick*, for the education of the Roman-catholic clergy, there situated. This establishment, founded, in pursuance of an act passed in 1795, by the Irish Parliament, stands at the south western termination of the principal street; which, being very wide, forms a spacious vista to the front of the building, while it extends from it to a noble avenue leading to *Cartown*, the princely and picturesque country residence of his Grace the Duke of Leinster. The edifice of which the centre is formed, was originally a handsome private house, built by the steward of the late Duke of Leinster, from whom it was purchased by the trustees of the institution. To this, extensive wings, of the same elevation, were added; so that the whole front now presents a grand and ornamental façade, 400 feet in length, and consisting of three stories; the centre pile, or original building, standing forward 50 feet, and the extremities of the wings, which are similar in form, having a corresponding projection. In this front, besides the spacious lecture-rooms, &c., are the chapel and refectory, both neat and commodious: the latter is of considerable dimensions, and judiciously divided into different compartments by handsome Ionic columns and arcades, which support the cieling. It was originally intended, that this front range should form one side of a square; and the supplementary buildings, to be added behind it, a spacious quadrangle of the same elevation; but, for want of sufficient funds, the front and north-west wing only have been as yet completed. The latter is principally laid out in dormitories, opening from galleries, each about 300 feet in length, and which serve as ambulatories for the students in wet weather: the whole on a plan, not only judicious in arrangement, but, neat, simple, and inexpensive. The kitchen is lofty and spacious: over

the principal fire-place, the stranger notices the following admonition, in large letters, to the cook :

Be always cleanly, show your taste,
Do not want, and do not waste.

—a piece of grave advice, which obtains, as we have chanced to see, and as it deserves, an equally conspicuous situation, in the kitchens of many mansions, hotels, &c. in England.

The library, so important a part of a seminary of this nature, is yet in its infancy: the books are arranged on plain shelves around a not very large room. They are in number 5000; and principally theological works; including commentaries on the Scriptures, written by men of all religious persuasions. The collection, on other subjects, is so limited, that the professor of philosophy is obliged, from its paucity, to compile his treatise, and dictate it to his pupils. In this library, all students, of a certain age, are permitted to read.

Attached to the College are about 50 acres of land. In front is a lawn of nearly two acres, laid out in gravelled walks, and separated from the street by a handsome semicircular iron railing, on a dwarf wall, erected by the original proprietor of the building: but, either because it was supposed to be an insufficient barrier on the side of the town, and a greater degree of seclusion considered more favourable to study and to the maintenance of internal discipline, or from some other motive—of any of which the visitor must lament the necessity—a wall of coarse masonry and mean appearance has been built in front of this fine railing, and completely conceals it from public view. In the centre, the piers of the principal gate of entrance are ornamented with sphinxes, while others gracefully break the railing into parts, and are decorated with lions couchant and sculptured urns. The piers, dwarf walls, and decorations, are of the finest Portland stone, and the workmanship in the best style.

The lawn is terminated on the right hand by the tower of Maynooth *Church*, beautifully mantled with ivy, and on the left by the stately ruins of a *Castle*, the ancient residence of the Fitzgeralds, ancestors of the Duke of Leinster; features which, as they appear to great advantage in perspective, as the traveller approaches, render the whole scene extremely interesting.

In rear of the building, is an extensive tract of level ground, part of which forms a garden, and part is laid out in spacious retired gravelled walks, for the recreation of the students: the latter is well planted, and there is in particular a fine avenue of majestic elms.

The number of the students is about 250. The proportion to be sent from each district of the island was prescribed by the statutes:—the ecclesiastical provinces of Armagh and Cashel to furnish 60 each, those of Dublin and Tuam 40 each; but, in consequence of an additional grant from Government, 50 more have been added to the establishment, who are sent in the same proportions. The whole are provided with lodging, commons, and instruction from the funds; but each student pays the sum of £10, as entrance money; and his personal expences for a year, are estimated at about £20. They have a recess during the months of July and August; and another, for a few days only, at the festivals of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. As it is requisite, even during these vacations, for students, who may wish to absent themselves, to obtain permission from their respective prelates, they, for the most part, remain at College during the whole year, employing themselves, in the intervals, in preparations for the ensuing course. During term, the obligation to residence, imposed by the statutes, is strictly enforced. For the admission of a student, besides other things specified, the recommendation of his prelate is required: the usual mode as to which is, to select a certain number from the candidates in each diocese, as recommended by their respective

parish priests; but as, in the diocese of Cashel, a severe examination is previously held, and those only who appear best qualified permitted to be sent hither, the students from that district are, in consequence, said to maintain a decided superiority in the course. On their arrival, they are examined in the classics, and admitted by the majority of examiners.

The following out-line of the course of studies prescribed, may be interesting to our English Protestant readers; and for their sake, it is hoped, those who are acquainted with the details will pardon its insertion. The students are divided into seven classes: Humanity, Logic, Mathematics, and Divinity, the four first; the fifth, sixth, and seventh, Modern Languages.—*Humanity*: under class; Latin and Greek; Sallust, Virgil, and Horace, explained; select passages of Goldsmith's Roman History occasionally translated into Latin; portions of the Greek Testament, Lucian, and Xenophon, construed and explained.—*Belles Lettres*: or first class of Greek and Latin: Greek; Gospel of St. Luke, Acts of the Apostles, Epistles of St. Paul, Homer, Epictetus, Xenophon, explained, &c.—Latin: Cicero's Orations and Offices, Livy, part of Seneca, Pliny's Letters, Horace, explained, &c.; rules of Latin versification.—*Philosophy*: Logic, Metaphysics, and Ethics; Seguy's Philosophy, and Locke.—*Natural and Experimental Philosophy*: different branches of Elementary Mathematics, Algebra, Geometry, Conic Sections, Astronomy, Mechanics, Optics, Hydraulics, &c.; Chymistry.—*Divinity*: Dogmatical, first course, de Religione; second course, de Incarnatione et Ecclesiâ: third course, de Sacramentis in genere, de Eucharistiâ. The Professor is obliged to compile these treatises, which are chiefly taken from the following books; Hooke, Bailly, Duvoisin, Le Grand, Tournely, N. Alexander, P. Collet, E. Tour.—*Moral*: first course, de Actibus Humanis, de Conscientiâ, de Peccatis, de Matrimonio; second course,

de Legibus, de Virtutibus, Theol. et Moral; de Sacramento poenitentiae: third course, de Jure, de Justitiâ, de Contractibus, de Obligatione Statuum, de Censurâ, &c.: P. Collet, Continuator Tournellii. There is at present no regular Professor of Sacred Scriptures; but a portion of the New Testament is committed to memory every week; the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles are explained, the Epistles from Dom. Calmet, Maldonatus, Esthius, Synopsis criticorum, and other biblical ex-pounders. The modern languages taught, are English, native Irish,* and French: these are merely incidental, and not a necessary part of the course. There are, on an average, 60 students annually in the Irish class; to promote whose progress the Professor has published a copious Irish Grammar in the native character.

The following is the general order of each day:—The students are summoned by a bell: at half-past five, they meet for public prayer; from six, they study in the public halls; at half-past seven, mass is performed; at eight, they breakfast; at nine, study in public halls; at ten, attend class; at half-past eleven, recreation; at twelve, study in public halls; at half-past one, attend class; at three, dinner; at five, class for modern languages; at six, study

* It is an extraordinary fact, that there was originally no provision made for a Professor of Irish in this College; notwithstanding the want of such a Professorship was felt and lamented, by all of the Roman-catholic communion, in Connaught, Munster, and indeed in every part of the country where the majority speak Irish. Many young candidates for orders, born and bred in towns, where English is almost universally spoken, were unable, when sent to country parishes, to perform the duties of their profession, for want of a practical knowledge of the native language. To remedy this, a pious scrivener, of the name of Keenan, sunk £1000 of his hard earned property, the acquirement of a long, laborious, and economical life, for £60 per annum, to support an Irish Professor for "teaching and instructing the students of the College of Maynooth in the Irish language in the Irish character." From this fund, Dr. Paul O'Brien, who, according to the donor's wishes, was appointed the first Irish Professor, and still continues to fill the Irish chair, is paid his annual salary.

in public halls; at eight, supper; at nine, common prayer; and, at half-past nine, all retire in silence to their chambers.

There are two public examinations held each year; at Christmas and Midsummer; when premiums are given, whose value is proportioned to the merits of those who best pass these ordeals. The period of study is usually five years: two devoted to Humanity, Logic, and Mathematics; and three to Divinity. But sometimes the period is shortened by the omission of Mathematics.

The bye-laws chiefly relate to internal regulations, enforcing much of discipline and formality, tending to train up the students to the habitual observance of great exterior decorum: yet there are three anniversary days observed with unusual festivity—Foundation Day, Christmas Day, and St. Patrick's Day. On these occasions wine is allowed, three bottles being given with each mess. During meals, the Scriptures, and other profitable books, selected by the President, are to be read. The students are to be obedient to the President, and to use only such books as shall be recommended by him or the Professors.

The statutes describe the duties and qualifications of the members of the institution: The President must be a native subject of the British empire, not under 30 years of age, in priest's orders, and must have passed through a complete course of academical learning. It is his duty to superintend the general discipline of the college; in the performance of which office he is assisted by a Vice-President. The Dean, who is likewise styled *Magister Officii*, inspects manners and morals, and is to be of the same order, age, &c. as the President. The allegiance of the members to the government from which they derive their support, is to be testified in various ways:—each student, on his admission, to take an oath, that he is, and will remain, unconnected with

any conspiracy, &c. The duty of fidelity to the civil government is strongly and earnestly inculcated by the theological professors; and prayers for the King are offered on Sundays and Holidays in a prescribed form.

The following are the Institution's present Officers:

President, **REV. B. CROTTY, D.D.**
Vice-President, **REV. M. MONTAGUE.**
Dean, **REV. JOHN CANTWEL.**
Bursar, **REV. JOHN CUMMINS.**
Sub-Dean, **REV. P. DOOLEY.**

THE PROFESSORS:

Of Dogmatic Theology, .. **REV. L. DELAHOGUE, D.D.**
Moral Theology, **REV. F. ANGLADE, L.D.**
Sacred Scriptures, **REV. JAMES BROWNE.**
Dunboyne Establish. .. **REV. P. MAGENNIS, D.D.**
Natural Philosophy, .. **REV. C. DENVIR.**
Logic, **REV. C. M'NALLY.**
Greek and Latin, **REV. R. GIBBONS.**
Hebrew, **REV. C. BOYLAN.**

PROFESSORS OF MODERN LANGUAGES:

Of Irish, **REV. P. O'BRIEN.**
French, **REV. F. POWER.**
English Elocution, **REV. C. BOYLAN.**

LECTURERS:

On Dogmatic Theology, .. **REV. J. M'KEALE.**
Moral Theology, **REV. D. MALONE.**

The college is supported by parliamentary grants; aided, in some degree, by private donations and legacies, which, since its foundation, have amounted to more than £8000. The annual grant from parliament, until 1807, was £3000: but, in that year, application was made for an augmentation, and the yearly sum of £2500

granted besides; and by means of this increase, the 50 students before-mentioned were added to the original number of 200. The buildings have cost £32,000, and are yet far from completed.

Mr. Walsh, from whose work the foregoing account of this institution is mainly derived, with much truth and feeling, in connection with his subject, observes: that, whatever controversy the original colonization of Ireland, and other facts of her early history, may have caused; however the advocates of her early civilization, may differ from the more recent asserters of her barbarism; there is yet one claim that is openly or tacitly admitted by all—a passion for literature in every period of her history. When hordes of northern barbarians had overrun southern Europe, and centuries of war and rapine had extinguished almost every ray of knowledge, Ireland, remote and insulated, enjoyed a happy tranquillity: devoted to learning, she not only produced men of genius,* who were successively eminent in different parts of Europe, but also, at home, displayed an attachment to the sciences, and a generous ardour to promote them, unparalleled perhaps in the annals of literature. She not only liberally endowed seminaries for the instruction of native pupils, but she invited every foreigner to participate in the same pursuit; and, with a disinterested liberality, unknown in the similar establishments of any people in their highest state of refinement, she

* Did the subject call for extensive illustration, it were easy to prove, from undoubted testimony, that Ireland, at a very early period, produced men eminent in the different departments of literature. Let the notice of one or two suffice.—Johannes Erigena, in theology, the friend and preceptor of Alfred, opposed the Real Presence, and other doctrines then first promulgated, with great acuteness; and the letter of Pope Nicholas, bearing testimony to his excellent learning, but charging him with heterodox opinions, is still extant.—Virgilius, surnamed Solivagus, afterwards Bishop of Saltzburgh, taught the sphericity of the earth, and held the doctrine of the Antipodes. He drew his opinions, it is said, from the early Grecian writers, who adopted the theory of Pythagoras, having

defrayed every expence, and gratuitously supplied her literary guests with every accommodation.* It was thus, that not only the natives were highly improved, but Ireland was crowded with learned strangers,† who, having no means of prosecuting their studies at home, flocked to this Athens‡ of the middle ages from every part of Europe; and, while native genius received liberal encouragement, and was highly cherished in its native land, foreign talents were invited to participate, and received into a secure and hospitable asylum.

But how different was the scene in more modern centuries! when all the calamities of the most savage piratical warfare burst into this hitherto tranquil island; when every peaceful and pious establishment was overturned; every monument of previous improvement lost; and every vestige of a former high state of refinement, by the united operation of external force and civil dis-

travelled into Greece to consult them. These illustrious men were the precursors of Wickliffe and Luther, Galileo and Copernicus: one was therefore the harbinger of reformation in religion, as the other was of astronomy, in Europe.—See *Ware, Usher, Mosheim, Spotswood, Dupin, &c.*

* Bede.

† Alfred, among others, who was the politest and most learned monarch in Europe, retired here to study:—"in Hibernia omni philosophia animum composuit." (Gul. Malms. lib. 1.) On his return to England, he invited Johannes Erigena to his court, and about the same time founded the University of Oxford—possibly on the model of that at Lismore, or some other in Ireland at which he had studied.

‡ "Amandatus est ad disciplinam in *Hibernia*," was the necessary character to constitute the polite and learned gentleman of the middle ages, no less sought after than the "*Doctus Athenis vivere*" among the Romans.

"Certatim hi properant diverso transite ad urbem

"*Lismoriam*, juvenis primos ubi transigit annos,"

says Morinus, in his life of the founder of the University of Lismore, *ivit ad Hibernos Sophia mirabili claros.*—*Vita Sullegeni in Cambden,*

Du temps du Charlemagne, 200 ans après omnes ferè docti étoint d'Irlande.—*Scaliger the Younger.*

sension, gradually destroyed! Still, the energies of the unsubdued mind remained; although the illumination they never ceased entirely to emit, shed a light over the unfortunate land, that only served, by contrast, to make the ruins of its ancient institutions appear clothed with darker shade: still, under every vicissitude, a passion for poetry and letters continued among the people, which is to this day remarkable among the poorest and remotest peasantry.* While the better, and more enlightened, quitting at different times their native soil, now become so uncongenial to their exertions, pursued abroad† the cultivation of those talents which adverse circumstances denied them at home, and sought for those literary asylums in foreign lands, which their ancestors had so generously afforded to all the world.

In these our days, it is most true, liberal reflections on the sorrows of the past, and extended intercourse, are wearing down the asperities of once *mutual* intolerance; and enlightened systems are dispelling the darkness of past prejudices. Native talents are no longer compelled to seek elsewhere for protection, and the means to improve themselves. Schools are at length every where establishing for the young, on principles not infringing upon that sacred liberty of conscience, which is the first of treasures to every ingenuous and manly mind; the honourable pursuit of every liberal profession, at least, is thrown open, without bar or restriction as to modes of faith; while the establishment *at home* of a seminary for the Catholic priesthood, and for

* The proficiency of the peasantry of the county of Kerry in classical knowledge is well known: and Greek and Latin form part of the course of education in almost *every hedge-school* in the country. It is not uncommon for women to acquire a knowledge of the former, and the latter is the language always used in common conversation in every school where it is taught.

† By especial provision made in various continental countries, previously to the French Revolution, for the education of Irish Catholics.

giving a munificent education, in their own country, to those, who are with reason supposed to exercise a strong, and, under all the circumstances, very natural controul, over the principles and opinions of the larger mass of the community, was no less an act of strict justice, than of sound and enlightened policy.

At the period when this important concession to the majority in the sister island was made, all intercourse between these kingdoms and the continent was suspended; and it was of course impossible for a subject of Great Britain to avail himself of any advantages offered him in a country where his presence was interdicted. But, that the Irish Catholic should at the same time be denied the means of education at home, that he was prevented by the untoward state of Europe from obtaining it abroad, was a proscription of the human faculties which no people were ever before subject to: accordingly, this institution was formed: and it may safely be pronounced one, highly deserving the most bounteous support of government; and that, not merely from considerations of justice and conscience, but as its foundation was a measure of the very first political expediency; forming perhaps the strongest bond of attachment, from the majority of the nation towards the civil authority under which they live. While so lavish are the grants from government for the Irish service, in support of institutions whose merits are far below this; and of plans, many of which are of questionable utility; it is painful to hear, that the present state of the College of Maynooth is such, that its funds are inadequate to the wants of the Irish church: if such be the case, it is indeed earnestly to be wished, that the same liberal and enlightened policy which dictated the establishment, may complete its boon, so as to render it effectual to all the purposes for which it was intended.

Maynooth College was founded exclusively for such as are designed for holy orders: and as its benefits

could not, therefore, be imparted to any who were to be of lay professions, the idea of a *Lay College* was conceived; and, in 1802, a subscription entered into, by means of which, such an institution was established, in the vicinity of that whose objects were all comprehended in the priesthood. The plan of education adopted here, comprises the Latin, Greek, French, and English languages; together with history, ancient and modern, sacred, and profane; geography, arithmetic, book-keeping, and mathematics. This building is on a handsome plan, and sufficiently spacious to accommodate 90 students.

Another seminary of the same kind, called the *Jesuits' College*, has been established within these few years at CASTLE-BROWN, about 14 miles from Dublin, lying southwards from Maynooth, and near the village of Clane. The college here was the family residence of Wogan Brown, who sold it to the Jesuits. It consists of a Gothic building, flanked with four round towers, and has a demesne of 50 acres. It is superintended by three principals, Jesuits; and receives 150 pupils, who are uniformly clothed, and, besides the usual classical course and modern languages, are instructed in music, and in every other polite accomplishment. Each boy is clothed, dieted, and educated, at the estimated expence of £50 per annum.

Maynooth itself is, for the most part, a modern-built town, with a handsome *Market-house* and spacious *Inn*. There is also a *Charter-School* for 50 girls. The *Castle*, before noticed, was, in 1534, besieged by Gerald, the ninth Earl of Kildare; when, though defended by a strong garrison, it surrendered after holding out seven days: previously to this, the abundance of its furniture is said to have obtained for it the reputation of being one of the richest residences in the island.

KILCOCK is a populous but straggling village, still presenting marks of the dreadful ravages to which it

was subjected in the Rebellion of 1798. From hence, a southward road leads, by *Donadea Castle*, to PROSPEROUS; now much misnamed, though at a former time bidding fair to become what it is now only by appellation.

This ruined town owed its creation to the wealth, directed by public spirit, of a Mr. Robert Brooke; who, returning to Ireland with a large fortune acquired in the East, embarked largely in the cotton business, both here and at Dublin; but was destined to prove as unfortunate as those whom his example had stimulated to similar enterprises at Malahide and Balbriggan, where their failure has been already noticed. When the freedom of commerce was first bestowed on Ireland by the British legislature, this gentleman was among the first to avail himself of its advantages; and suddenly raised an obscure and scanty trade, into a great national manufacture. He commenced, by drawing to Dublin English artists, and importing the most improved machinery. These he established and set to work in the Liberties of that city; but his great undertaking was this at Prosperous. Here, in order to remove the manufactures from the confinement, insalubrity, and expensive living of the metropolis, he began to build a new town, on purpose for their reception; and, in the short space of three years, it was completely finished for all the different branches, including the printing linen and cotton goods on a very extensive scale; while, that nothing might be wanting to give permanency to the establishment, he commenced also, in co-operation with a Mr. Kirchoffen, the business of making machinery on the most perfect and approved models. In these spirited pursuits, he expended the sum of £18,000; and it was from the fair and flattering prospects with which he for a short time proceeded, that he called his rising colony by the name of *Prosperous*. But at length, having, by constructing aqueducts, and by other very expensive

improvements of his works, expended sums considerably exceeding his own private fortune, it became necessary to apply for assistance to the Irish Legislature; who very liberally granted him £25,000; besides affording aids to those who had engaged in the manufacture at Malahide and Balbriggan. But, in a work undertaken by people accustomed to different pursuits, and established in a country where such things had never been before seen, it was no more to be wondered at that ill success should ultimately accrue, than that men of liberal views and ardent minds should, as in so many other undertakings, be found to speculate beyond their means of accomplishment. In 1786, Mr. Brooke being compelled again to apply to Parliament for aid, and they refusing it, he was no longer able to answer the immediate demands of his widely extended establishment, and became insolvent; and thus, without notice or the slightest expectation of the event, the whole machine of industry suddenly stopped; and, in the course of 24 hours, 1,400 looms, with all their apparatus and dependencies, were struck idle; and the artists dismissed from their unfinished work, with the contemplation only of a poverty, the causes of which, in the first moments of confusion, they found it difficult to comprehend. Mr. Brooke never again attempted to revive the manufacture. The situation of this establishment, it may be observed, was not altogether judiciously chosen. The place stands in a low marshy country, surrounded with bogs—which are extremely common throughout Kildare—and, though an abundance of turf, for fuel, may be thus obtained, it naturally commands no water. Notwithstanding, the manufactures continued here, on a small scale, till the year 1798, when they became an object of attack from the rebels: since which time, Prosperous has gradually descended to decay, and only a few scattered weavers now linger among its ruins. The other adventurers, who had embarked in these magnificent schemes, have been stated to have proved

equally unsuccessful; and thus a few short years saw the rise and fall of as extraordinary a commercial enterprise, as was perhaps ever contemplated and pursued by so small a number of private and unconnected individuals.

Near this place, the Grand Canal encounters the *Hill of Downings*, consisting of loamy gravel, and through which it is carried, as mentioned in our former brief notice of this grand national work; and, soon after its outlet, enters the *Bog of Allen*, the largest in the island. This, like the other bogs of Ireland, is formed of decayed vegetable substances; and, in illustration of the idea, that the principal agent in the creation of bogs is stagnant water, it is found to occupy a situation the best possibly calculated to produce it—namely, a level space, almost without a descent to carry off its waters, and on which of course every stream would creep with a lazy current. That it was originally covered with wood, appears from the fact, that wherever the operations of opening or boring have been practised, timber, at various depths, has been discovered. Of this timber, the lowest stratum is generally oak, and the others fir; and on both the marks of fire, or of the hatchet, are frequently visible. It is also an extraordinary fact, that the original soil has every where completely disappeared; being no longer distinguishable from the bog, which every where rests on a bed of gravel, without any intermediate stratum of clay or mould.

The turf from hence varies much in quality, according to the depth from which it is taken; being more or less porous, and in consequence heavier or lighter, as well as of swifter or slower combustion, in proportion. Agreeably to Mr. Walsh's mention of this bog, a boat containing about 200 kishes of it pays a toll to the Canal Company of about £6. and is brought to market by a single horse and two men; but, from the effects of combination, and otherwise, it is sold at a price

that renders it, even when of the best quality, much more expensive than foreign coal; which circumstance, together with the room required for stowing such bulky fuel, must exclude every idea of its becoming an efficient substitute for that essential article: it is, however, the source of great convenience and comfort to the poor of the capital, who, too indigent or too improvident to lay up coal, can still purchase turf, even in so small a quantity, if required, as an halfpenny-worth.

The eye of the traveller, however familiar with the generally wretched hovels of the poor in this country, must be immediately struck with the singular construction of those he will meet with in the Bog of Allen. To a moderate distance on each side of the canal, the bog is let in small lots to turf-cutters; who, for convenience, and the facility of guarding their property from theft, take up their residence on the spot, however dreary or uncomfortable. The first care of one of these is, to seek a dry bank above the influence of the floods; and here he *excavates* his future habitation, to such a depth that little more than the roof is visible: this is sometimes covered with scanty thatch, but oftener with turf pared from the bog; which, as the herbage is upwards, so perfectly assimilates with the surrounding scenery, that the eye would pass over it as an undulation of the surface, were it not undeceived by seeing an occasional sally of children, accompanied by the pig or the goat—or by the issue of a volume of smoke—from a hole on one side: while, to his yet greater surprise, the latter, rising from the endless crannies in the roof, sometimes presents the momentary idea of its being caused by subterranean fires. It is properly remarked, that the wretched manner in which the lower class of the inhabitants of Ireland is lodged, may be traced to other sources than to rack-rents, unfeeling landlords, &c. in this scene; the proprietors of these hovels earning an

easy subsistence; and one of them in particular having been known to have accumulated the sum of £100; and yet his habitation, the only one he possessed, was perfectly similar to those of his neighbours. To what, it is asked, must we impute this seeming inconsistency?—not, surely, to any peculiar attachment in the Irish peasant to inconvenience and dirt; but, to the neglected state of his mind, (and still more to that depressed state of ideas and feelings, which, as to himself, mainly induces that neglect) and to the want of an education, which, raising him above the semi-barbarism that now marks his character, would give him a taste for, and a pride in the possession of, the comforts and conveniences of life.

This vast level supplies but few objects, on which the attention, fatigued by its sameness, can repose; on the south, the high grounds of the Isle of Allen present some pleasing scenes of intermingled plantation, pastures, and corn-fields: to the east, the Dublin mountains appear, melting into the horizon; while, to the north and west, the distant hills of Carbery and Croghan start, like elevated islands, from the dreary waste, and are visible at a great distance: the intelligent traveller, however, who should be proceeding by one of the passage-boats, which afford a pleasing conveyance, on the canal, would perhaps find amusement of a superior kind, in reflecting on the wonders human ingenuity can perform, in the construction of these vast artificial waters; and in anticipating, in idea, the seats that may arise, the plantations that may flourish, and the harvests that may wave, at some more or less distant period, over the tracts at present consigned to heath and sterility.

The advantages, naturally calculated to result, both to the metropolis and the country, from such great inland navigations, are certainly very important: among the local ones, which experience has already afforded, it may be mentioned, that large tracts of bog have been

already reclaimed and improved, and that the lands, in the vicinity of the Grand and Royal Canals, have doubled their former value. By both lines, flour, corn, potatoes, and other provisions, with native timber, turf, stone, bricks, gravel, lime, sand, &c. are conveyed with safety, comparative cheapness, and expedition, to the capital; which sends in return, coals, culm for burning lime, bricks, manure, foreign timber, iron, ale, spirits, groceries, &c.: to which must be added, the many comforts and conveniences which the traveller finds, by the establishment of clean and commodious passage-boats, constantly passing, and arriving at stated hours, at the regulated stages: these, uninterrupted by any change of weather, proceeding with a rapidity and security, that, added to the reasonable terms of their accommodations, afford one of the most pleasant, comfortable, and expeditious modes of travelling, to be found in any part of the world. The entertainment, on both canals, besides is excellent; and, to prevent imposition, the prices of every article are stated in tables hung up in the cabins: there is no charge for attendance; and, to preserve sobriety of manners, no individual is allowed more than a single pint of wine, and the use of spirits is prohibited. There are at present 10 of these boats plying on the Shannon and Barrow lines of the Grand Canal; and these now traverse the gentle waters with such expedition, that the passage from Dublin to Shannon Harbour, which is 63 Irish, or above 86 English miles, is performed in *one* day (namely, between the hours of 4 in the morning and 10 in the evening) and at an expence, exclusive of entertainment, of £1 1s. for the first cabin, and 14s. 1d. for the second; the passage to Athy, of above 54 English miles, requires 12 hours and 35 minutes, and the intermediate stages are performed in periods nearly in the same proportion to their distances. The Royal Canal as yet employs only four passage-boats; and the passage to Mullingar, of 42 Irish, or 53½ English

miles, is performed in $13\frac{1}{2}$ hours; at the expence, exclusive of entertainment, of 12s. 6d. for the first, and 7s. 7d. for the second cabin.

The *Hill of Allen* is traditionally celebrated for its *Cave*, in which are said to repose the remains of Oscar and other Ossianic chiefs: this having been the Hill of *Temora* of ancient times.

After travelling little more than four miles from Kilcock, we arrive at CLONCARRY, a small town on the Blackwater, which gives the title of Baron to the family of Lawless: it has a ruined *Church*. Here a Carmelite Friary, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, was founded, in 1347, by John Roche, who obtained a license for so doing from Edward III. according to Archdall: the church, it is therefore probable, was formerly attached to that religious foundation.

From hence a road leads to CARBERY, or CASTLE CARBERY, situate on the verge of the Bog of Allen, and giving the title of Baron to the noble family of Pomeroy, now represented by Viscount Harberton.

Here is a *Charter-School*, which was endowed by the late Mrs. Elizabeth Colley, and her sister, Mrs. Pomeroy, co-heiresses of Castle Carbery, with two acres of land in perpetuity: they also granted 20 acres adjoining, at a moderate rate for three lives; and gave £20 per annum, as a rent-charge for ever, towards the support of the school. Mrs. Elizabeth and Mrs. Judith Colley, aunts to the same ladies, built the school at their own expence: and the sum of £100 was bequeathed to it by the late Thomas Dallyel, Esq.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the place, are the ruins of a large *Castle*, built about the year 1180: it is situated on a high, peninsulated hill, rocky and steep on three sides, and from which there is a very extensive prospect: it was formerly the residence of the Cowley family,

Newbury, in the vicinity, is the handsome and commodious seat of the family of Pomeroy.

Rather more than three miles from Carbery, pursuing the same road, is EDENDERRY, a neat town, much inhabited by the people called Quakers: it has also the ruins of a *Castle*, which was once the seat of the Blundel family. Some little trade is carried on at this place.

Twice crossing the Royal Canal, we reach CLONARD, which, as well as Cloncurry, is in the county of Meath, although we have travelled from the latter to the former through an intervening part of Kildare. This town, situated on the Boyne, has long fallen to decay, but was in earlier ages a bishop's see. St. Keran, the son of the carpenter, (says Archdall,) who was born A. D. 506, gave Clonard, with its appendages, to St. Finian, some short time before his death, which happened about the year 549; on which St. Finian, who was of a noble family, a philosopher, and an eminent divine, founded an *Abbey* here, and dedicated it to St. Peter; in which was a school, celebrated for producing many men who acquired fame in the learned world, and were of exemplary piety. This saint died of the plague, December 12, 548; on which day his feast is still commemorated. The entrance into the abbey, on the west side, was through a small building, with a lodge over it, which led into a court: to the right of this court stand the kitchen and cellar; and, over them the dormitory; ranging with the river, and overlooking the garden, which sloped down to the water's edge: opposite the entrance was another small apartment; and adjoining it the refectory, which was carried for some length beyond the square, and united with the choir; the latter a large and elegant building, with its windows finished in a light Gothic style, most part of which still remains. On the south side of the altar, fixed in the wall, is a small double arch, in the old Saxon style, and divided by a pillar through which iron bars were fixed: this is sup-

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posed to have been the founder's tomb. There are many remains of walls adjoining the other parts of the abbey; but in so ruinous a state, that little information can be gleaned from them. At a little distance from the east window, in the burial ground, stands a small chapel; in which is a table monument, ornamented with the effigies of a man and woman, in a praying posture, and in the costume of Queen Elizabeth's time: its sides are adorned with many coats of arms; of which that of the family of Dillon is the most conspicuous.—The *Nunnery* of this place, for Regular Canonesses, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was endowed before the arrival of the English, by O'Melaghlin, King of Meath: this nunnery was afterwards so much reduced, as to become a cell only to that of St. Brigitt of Odra.

KINNEGAD is a mere village, but has good accommodations for the general tourist, or picturesque wanderer. On a hill near it are the ruins of *Ardmullan Castle*; and at *Kilbride Pass*, about four miles distant, are those of two castles and a church. We are now in Westmeath, a not very large county, but extremely rich in verdure, and mostly flat; though in some places pleasingly diversified with hills, several of which are tolerably wooded. Though not so inviting, in point of scenery, as many other districts in the island, the draughtsman will not want for subjects for his portfolio, if he visits its lakes; which are frequently fringed with luxuriant plains, and rich woodlands. But the tract of country through which we are immediately conducting the tourist, bears but a ragged appearance, from the general want of trees and hedge-rows, and the slovenly state of its cultivation.

MULLINGAR, the assize and shire town, was an ancient palatinate; and gave the title of Baron to the family of Petit. It is 38 miles from Dublin: possesses good accommodations. Its elegant *Church* has been recently erected.—The *Priory* of St. Mary here, we are informed

by Archdall, which was formerly known by the name of *The House of God of Mullingar*, was founded in 1227, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustin, by Ralph le Petyt, Bishop of Meath, who died in 1229. The Dominican *Friary*, part of the bell-tower, and some other ruins of which remain, was founded by the family of Nugent in the year 1237.

An eminence, about two miles distant from the town, commands, in opposite directions, very fine views of Loughs Ouil and Ennel: the eastern banks of the latter, which are more abrupt than the western, are well wooded, and decorated with numerous gentlemen's seats. Among these, is *Rochfort*, a charming residence; and *Belvedere*, the seat of Lord Belvedere, has the celebrity of being one of the most enchanting spots in the island. "The house," says Mr. Young, (in his *Agricultural Tour*) "is perched on the crown of a beautiful little hill, half surrounded with others, variegated and melting into one another. It is a most singular place; spreads to the eye a beautiful lawn of undulating ground, margined with wood: single trees are scattered in some places, and clumps in others: the effect so pleasing, that, were there nothing further, the place would be beautiful; but the rest of the canvas is admirably filled. Lough Ennel, many miles in length, and two or three broad, flows beneath the windows. It is spotted with islets; a promontory of rock, fringed with trees, starts into it, and the whole is bounded by distant hills. Greater and more magnificent scenes are often met with, but no where a more singular one."

The charming demesne, and elegant mansion, of the *Nugents*, are situated north of the town: there are remains of a venerable *Castle* in their vicinity. South, about six or eight miles, is *Horse-Leap*, where are the ruins of another and very stately castle, built by Hugh de Lacy, the early English adventurer, and Palatine of Meath: there is also another about two miles from it.

On the northern sides of the town lie the lakes Ouil and Derveragh: the former a singular inland water, situated on the highest part of the great plain extending from the Irish Sea to the Shannon River, and from this circumstance, most desirably placed as a natural reservoir to the Royal Canal, the Undertakers of which have availed themselves of its inexhaustible supplies, by a cut into it from Mullingar. Its surface is about 18 inches higher than the summit level of the canal; and it is of pretty considerable size; being six miles long, and one broad, and spreading over an area of 1785 Irish, or 2856 English acres. It is environed by a fine fertile country, interspersed with villas, and appears to be fed by copious springs, as it receives but one small rivulet, and yet emits two rivers, running from it in opposite directions: one of these, formerly known to the natives by the name of the Silver Hand, issues from its north-western extremity, and falls, after a short but rapid course of one mile, into an expansion of the river Inny, called Lough Iron; the other, which used to be denominated the Golden Hand, flows with a gentle stream from its south-eastern point, visits Mullingar, and is soon lost in Lough Ennel, from which issues the river Brosna. Hence it happens, that Lough Ouil, with the rivers Inny, Brosna, and Shannon, completely insulate a considerable portion of Westmeath, Longford, and King's County: a geographical singularity, more frequently represented in maps, than really occurring in nature. The property of the two little rivers just described, has been purchased by the Canal Company; who, to secure as ample a supply of water as possible, have cut off the former, and dammed up the latter; by which means the lake is always kept full to its winter level; and, these precautions having been taken, it is supposed that no canal in Europe can boast a more abundant reservoir.

A road branches north-westwardly to Longford, the principal town of the county so called. This the tourist

will do well to follow in a separate excursion, as it embraces several objects of interest which we shall take this opportunity to describe.

Of these, the first occurring is *Wilson's Hospital*, most delightfully situated between Lough Ouil and Lough Derveragh. The hill, on which this establishment stands, is considered as the centre of Ireland; and commands a prospect not only of the lakes in its vicinity, together with Lord Portlemon's charming *Seat*, but gives a view into five distinct counties. Of the hospital, Mr. Curwen gives the following very satisfactory account.—The revenues are upwards of £4000 a year, applicable to the support of 150 boys, and 20 old men: the building is large, commodious, and well adapted to the objects of the institution. The Rev. — Radcliffe presides over the establishment; throughout every department of which, we were highly gratified in observing the greatest order and neatness to prevail; not less commendable, than creditable to those intrusted with its superintendence. Dr. Bell's system of education is here pursued. The children are admitted from 10 to 12 years of age, and they remain for three years, when they are apprenticed to some handicraft trade: the apprentice-fee, which the governors have now in contemplation to increase, is at present but five pounds: the children acquitted themselves very well, both in reading and accounts. Coercion is rarely resorted to; for where a sense of shame fails to produce the desired effect in young minds, little amendment can be expected from any other kind of punishment. Few instances have occurred of any of the children conducting themselves so ill as to compel their expulsion. Steady uniformity, and well-established order, soon procure that implicit obedience, which is one of the most valuable principles of the new system; the happy and salutary effects of which appear in the cheerful compliance and content of the pupils. The garden, which is extensive, is in a great measure

cultivated and managed by the children; engrafting, by this more active appropriation of their time, a certain degree of labour and industry on recreation and amusement. I should imagine it might be farther advantageous to teach the boys, as is the practice at the military academy, to make their own clothes; which would employ those hours in which the weather may preclude work in the garden.

The establishment is so well conducted, and so calculated to be eminently useful, that it is not possible to inspect it without feelings of the highest admiration of the philanthropy that dictated the bequest; yet it is not possible also but to lament the want of liberality, which restricted its benefits to one religious persuasion—that of the protestants—by which regulation, six out of seven of Mr. Wilson's countrymen are excluded the benefit of his munificence. That every individual possessing property has an undoubted right to dispose of it agreeably to his will and inclination, conformably to the laws, cannot be questioned; nor do I mean to pass the least uncandid or disrespectful reflection on the memory of the benevolent founder; but to express my strong disapprobation of the narrow, merciless bigotry, which not only fostered and promoted the most uncharitable prejudices of christians against each other, but which has been reproachfully encouraged and supported by the legislature of the country. What misery has not this wretched policy inflicted on 4,000,000 of our fellow subjects, and how severely at this moment do they feel its unjust operation! A total oblivion of all invidious distinctions should be a self-imposed task on every well-wisher to the country; the practice of this virtuous sentiment would by degrees have its due influence, and highly contribute to the general happiness of every rank and denomination of the people.

Seven miles north from Mullingar, on the right of this road, is **MULTIFARNAM**, situated on the river Gaine.

Sir Henry Piers, who wrote a description of the county of Westmeath in the seventeenth century, thus speaks of the once-celebrated *Abbey* of this now very inconsiderable spot:—

“The frame, or fabric, is rather neat and compact than sumptuous or towering, having in the midst, between the body of the church and the chancel, an handsome, strait, but very narrow steeple. After the Dissolution of Monasteries, it became the property of Alderman Jans, of Dublin, who, or his successors, permitted the friars to enter again and here settle, in as great splendour as ever: here, at and before 1641, they had their church, not only in very good repair, but adorned with images, pictures, reliques, &c. In the choir, or chancel, they had their organs and choristers; they had apartments, not only sufficient for their own number, but for the reception of many horse and foot at the time; here they had also houses of offices fit to make preparation for entertainment of such as came, at all times, to visit, or otherwise to consult or debate their concerns; and here it was that the fatal Rebellion, that broke out with so much fury and havock in 1641, was hatched and contrived. This abbey is at this time altogether out of repair.”—Tradition says, that the building was committed to the flames by the Rochforts, a powerful family of the country. The noble ruins, composed of a handsome black stone, evince the former splendour of Multifarnam: the workmanship appears to have been excellent: and the foundations of its cloisters, which may easily be traced, together with the east window, yet entire, and the steeple, 60 feet in height, give some idea of its pristine dimensions. This monastery, we are told by Archdall, was founded for Conventual Franciscans, by William Delamar, in the year 1236.

Lough Iron now lies at a short distance to the left of our road. On its farthestmost banks, until 1783, stood

one of the proudest remnants of the ecclesiastical architecture of Ireland, in the ruins of *Tristernagh Abbey*; the precise era of the foundation of which is unknown, but its style was that of the reign of Henry the Second, and Archdall ascribed its erection to Geoffrey de Constantine, one of the earliest English settlers here. About 50 years after the Dissolution, a lease of this Priory was granted to Captain William Piers, of whose family was Sir Henry Piers, whose description of Westmeath has been just alluded to, and with whose descendants it yet continues. Sir Henry, in speaking of this once magnificent pile, says that the building was in the form of a cross, with a steeple in the centre, rising from the four innermost angles of the cross in such a manner, that each of its walls sloped off as it ascended until the whole became an octagon, with a window in each of its eight sides. In 1780, the tower, though mutilated, was 74 feet high; and the walls of the edifice throughout firm and substantial, though the whole was divested of its roof. But, about that period, the proprietor converted a part of it into a *dairy*, and a farther portion into a *stable*; and, three years afterwards, demolished the whole! The Irish antiquary has now only the consolation of knowing, that two very able engravings of the structure, from which a competent idea of it may be still formed, are to be found in Ledwich's continuation of Grose's work on Ireland; the drawings from which they were taken having been made previously to the much-to-be lamented destruction of so noble a specimen of antiquity.

Lord Sunderlin's elegant *Seat* at Baronstown, in this vicinity, has been described in a former Excursion, which embraced a portion of the northern part of Westmeath.

We are now leaving this county, and approaching that of Longford, which is one of the smallest and flattest in the island. A great proportion of it is rude

bog, completely denuded of timber, and with few seats of any consequence to attract the notice of the traveller: yet will it be viewed with some attention by the statist, who will trace in it the effects—somewhat less beneficial, it is true, than might have been expected—of industry in the pursuit of the linen manufacture.

CLONMELLON, on the right, has an elegant modern *Church*, with a steeple and spire, all in imitation of the pointed style of architecture, usually called Gothic. Vile as these *imitations*, in an architectural sense, too generally are, we would much rather encounter them than that so common object in this country, a church *in ruins*: for how does the frequent recurrence of dilapidated sacred edifices, still left to moulder into irretrievable decay, reflect upon the meagre piety of latter generations, compared with the warm, and liberal, however mistaken, flow of that of ‘their sires of old!’

One of the first objects that will now meet the tourist’s eye, is the *Steeple* of EDGEWORTHSTOWN—a town that must interest every traveller of taste, were it only on account of its being the residence of the distinguished literary family from whom it takes its name. The steeple mentioned, we found, upon entering the place, to be an appendage to a handsome church, and to be itself composed of *cast-iron*, (having been raised to its present eminence by machinery;) but, previously to our arrival, the appearance of one of these indications of a country town, so common in England, led us to regret the prevailing want of them in the sister-island; since, to an eye habituated to their recurrence, their absence is no slight drawback upon the beauty of a country. This may be but English prejudice; but, in our opinion, as in that of a British senator often alluded to in the course of our work, the spire or tower of the parish church gives great interest to every landscape.

In this vicinity, are extensive *Slate Quarries*; but though the immediate neighbourhood, (as was observed

by the authority just mentioned) has little else deserving of remark, and little beauty to attract attention, the respect which talent inspires communicates a charm to the spot, which compensates for other disadvantages. The impressive and elegant pen of Miss Edgeworth, as the same gentleman most justly remarks, has depicted vice and folly in such forcible colours, and given such salutary warnings against their consequences, that we can have no doubt, but that by her writings the best interests of the country have been long, and will continue to be very materially promoted. In these, the Irish character appears to be most justly and most happily represented; and that melange of wit, generosity, feeling, and folly, fairly exhibited, which are constantly producing so much to admire and to condemn at the same instant. The exposure of corruption and oppression has not been quite palatable in all instances; a cry has been attempted to be raised against her, as being deficient in *patriotism*: such efforts, however, will prove as ineffectual in depreciating the well deserved celebrity of this lady, as the passing cloud, which, if it succeed in obscuring the sun for a moment, serves only to give additional splendour to his re-appearance.

The description following, by this writer, of the Edgeworth family, is too interesting to be omitted.—She (Miss Edgeworth) is at once so modest and so natural, that those unapprised of her talents, would not believe it possible she could appear so unconscious of the high reputation she possesses. The admiration of the world has affected neither her head nor her heart; for, whilst she seems wholly unconscious of her own merit, she is feelingly alive to the deserts of every other individual. Miss Edgeworth, in the common intercourse of life, is free from every assumption of superiority; it is with her pen alone she exercises it, in vindicating the cause of virtue and suffering humanity. The family is composed of children of different marriages; yet nothing can be

more delightful than the harmony which prevails. The ardent sentiment of benevolence, that prompts and animates their general labours, has the effect to modify or extinguish every individual selfish feeling; while the most strenuous endeavours of every member of this pleasant community are called into action, to promote the comfort and happiness of the whole. The first care of each seems to be that of forwarding such objects as meet the general wish of the whole party.

The present *Mrs.* Edgeworth is a daughter of that ingenious and elegant ornament to Irish literature, *Dr.* Beaufort, and is not less distinguished for accomplishments, than for good sense in the conduct and arrangement of her domestic concerns.

The extraordinary endowments of every branch of this family, make their acquaintance not less sought with avidity than valued when attained. *Mr.* Edgeworth (this gentleman has since paid the debt of nature) has long been eminent as a scholar, and a man of genius. His studies have principally been directed to mechanics, in which science he has been very successful: to his suggestions and hints are the public indebted for some of the most valuable modern improvements. *Mr.* Edgeworth's vivacity renders him a most pleasing companion: time seems to have been sensible of this, and to have kept no record against him. Such is the general outline of this charming family, who are all equally emulous to make their abilities useful in promoting the substantial interests of virtue and morality. The smiles and flattering commendations of the world have corrupted many a heart, and diminished the estimation due to splendid talents by creating unbounded expectations in their possessors, and by obliterating the just claims of others. Not a particle of this disposition is discoverable here; the kind assiduity and attention shewn to all around justly endear them to every rank, and make their residence a real blessing to the neighbourhood.

Mr. Edgeworth had just reasons to be proud of his *tenantry*, who appear substantial and respectable men: every thing about their farms seems to exhibit sufficiency and comfort; and the friendliness towards them, on their landlord's part, was highly creditable to both.—A singular instance of courage and humanity occurred, during the Rebellion, in Mr. Edgeworth's family: compelled as they were to quit their residence on a very short notice, a difficulty arose as to what could be done with a female servant who was too ill to be removed. The house-keeper, who was an elderly woman, volunteered to remain and take care of the invalid; and the house was accordingly left in her charge. A few days after the family had removed, the insurgents arrived, and, surrounding the house, demanded arms. The house-keeper refused to open the door:—a consultation was held, and it was resolved that it should be forced. At this moment, one who had some influence with the party came forward and remonstrated with the rest; observing, that the Edgeworth family had always acted with kindness and attention towards their poor neighbours, and that he would defend their property at the risk of his life. His courage and generosity had the desired effect: the whole of them departed without offering the least violence or injury to any thing about the premises. When the rebellion had subsided, this grateful fellow returned to his home near Edgeworthstown. On some dispute with a neighbour, he was threatened with an information for having held a commission in the rebel army; on which Mr. Edgeworth offered him his interest to procure him a pardon. The man thanked him, but declined it, saying, he had no fears, as he had a *Corny* in his pocket; meaning a card of protection, with Lord Cornwallis's seal and the initial letter C, of which it appears a distribution had been made to the peasants who returned quietly to their habitations—an instance that, in the worst of times, kind treatment in Ireland

would not fail of its influence even with those actually enrolled under the banners of rebellion.

Edgeworthstown is a pretty considerable village, and, having been in a great measure rebuilt of late years, has an improving appearance. The *Catholic Chapel* here is a large building, and is very numerously attended; yet there are a great number of Presbyterians in this neighbourhood. The Catholic congregation are in general decently dressed, and their behaviour highly becoming. A view of the interior of their place of worship usually presents several of them prostrated upon the ground; and devotion is commonly so unaffectedly displayed in the conduct of the majority, as to induce the regret that they are not better informed—we mean, as to the real non-existence of saving *essentials* in the differences between their faith and ours.

A husbandman's wages in the county of Longford, are, according to Mr. Curwen, for the summer months, but 12d., and in winter 10d., per day: fuel, however, one of the prime necessities among the lower orders, is easily procured. The general appearance of the country induced the same intelligent observer to believe, that, whenever a correct return of the population shall be obtained, the numbers will exceed every estimate hitherto produced: and that, should this opinion prove correct, a very serious question may arise, whether the population may not be doubled in the next 25 years? Fortunately, the culture of the potatoe, that prime support of life in Ireland, may be so greatly improved, that its produce perhaps shall be doubled likewise; and the reclaiming of bog, and the cultivation of mountain districts, comprehending together nearly a third of the country, are resources capable of being made subservient to a farther production of food. Cheering as this prospect would appear, and happy as it would be under some circumstances, it is not so here! All hope of augmenting the store of human happiness is vain, where the

means of employing a superabundance of rational beings are wanting. Man, to be happy, must be engaged in some pursuit: that of the subordinate classes is restricted to bodily labour; among the next superior in rank, intellectual researches are added to bodily exertion—yet does occupation in both form the basis of substantial human felicity. Great as the labour may appear to be of procuring subsistence, it will employ but a small portion of a civilized population:—how then is subsistence to be found for the remainder?

GRANARD is about four miles, in a direction nearly north, from Edgeworthstown. This is a neat town, consisting of one handsome street about half a mile long; at the head of which stands the *Castle*, built on a singular hill rising to a considerable height. This elevation is called the *Moat* of Granard; and there can be little doubt, notwithstanding its eminence, that, as the surrounding country is perfectly flat, it is artificial. The prospect from its summit extends into several counties. This town gives the title of Earl to the family of Forbes; and it is somewhat noted for the annual prizes here given to the best performers on the Irish harp.

ABBEYLARAGH, situated upon *Lough Coonoh*, and a short distance east of Granard, has some ruins of an *Abbey*, founded by St. Patrick, and afterwards dedicated to the Virgin Mary. *Lough Shillen*, not far distant, is another and more extensive sheet of water, being seven miles in length and four broad; parts of the scenery around it are romantic. “On an island in this Lough, (says Archdall) and near to the county of Meath, the ruins of a large *Friary* are yet to be seen, which was built here in an earlier age: we know not to whom the erection is owing, nor to what order the house did belong; but to this day it continues a burial-place of note.”

This part of Longford, which borders upon the province of Ulster, abounds in these inland waters: *Lough Garon*, north-west of Granard, is another of pretty considerable

dimensions, but of most irregular form. One of its islands also contains the ruins of an Abbey; and a second, on which are the remains of a once noble edifice, called the Abbey of All Saints. *Lough Derrick* and *Earne*, in the same vicinity, will interest the picturesque tourist.

BALLYNAMUCK, a small village in this neighbourhood, derives some celebrity from its having been the spot where the small French army, under General Humber, which arrived just at the close of the late rebellion, surrendered, together with the insurgents who had joined them, to Lord Cornwallis, in September, 1798.

ARDAGH lies a short distance south-west of Edgeworthstown. The *see* of Ardagh, which is valued in the king's books, at 11£. sterling, was founded, according to Dr. Beaufort, in the middle of the fifth century. In 1658, it was united to the bishopric of Kilmore; and continued so, till Dr. Hort was promoted from those sees to the archbishopric of Tuam in 1741; when they were again separated, and Ardagh was annexed to the archbishopric; which union has continued ever since, though the diocese of Elphin intervenes between them. It extends into six counties, and yet is a very small diocese; the greatest length from north to south being 42 miles, and the breadth, which is in some places but four, never exceeding 14 miles. In this diocese there are a dean, and archdeacon, but no chapter, nor episcopal residence. The description of it given by a bishop of Kilmore, in 1630, might, with some little alteration, be but too appropriate to the present moment. "I have been," said he, "about my diocese, and can set down out of my own knowledge and view, what I shall relate and shortly speak: much ill matter in a few words. It is very miserable every way: the cathedral of Ardagh, one of the most ancient in Ireland, and said to have been built by St. Patrick, together with the bishop's house, are now

down to the ground, &c.” Of this *Cathedral*, slight indeed are the existing memorials; and could the good old prelate raise his head, and take a view of them, and of the neglected church-yard, he would perceive that, after the lapse of nearly two centuries, the dilapidations, ‘very miserable every way,’ remain. Of the original foundation of this religious structure, Archdall speaks, when he says:—“St. Patrick founded an abbey in this town before the year 454, over which he placed St. Mell, the son of his sister Darerca, both as Abbot and Bishop. Some writers make this saint the founder; but in that particular, they must err, as Archbishop Usher informs us, that he acquired an humble livelihood by the labour of his own hands, and died on the 6th of February, A. D. 488. He was buried in his own church, and was said to have written a treatise on the virtues and miracles of St. Patrick.”

Proceeding to the southern parts of Longford county from this point, we pass the ruins of an old *Castle* at TAUGHSHINNY; and within a short distance, at ABBEY-SHROWLE, are remains of a *Convent*, situated near the banks of the river Inny. In this neighbourhood is a handsome house and extensive demesne called *Tenelick*.

A few miles previously to reaching BALLYMAHON, (a poor little town, surrounded by pleasing scenery,) we pass DRUMSHA, the birth-place of the poet *Goldsmith*, to which he is said to have alluded in his ‘Deserted Village:’ in itself it possesses but little beauty or interest; but association renders it a spot of some importance to every traveller, who can at all enter into the feeling descriptions of the bard. Nearly all southward of Edgeworthstown is a flat country, many parts of it naturally very rich, but its cultivation generally wretched. Yet there are many gentlemens’ seats in this district, and several of them handsome, and of considerable magnitude. The Royal Canal proceeds onwards from

Mullingar through this portion of the county, and then in a more northern direction to Lough Allen in Connaught.

Pursuing the high road for six miles from Edgeworthstown, we arrive at LONGFORD, the shire-town, situated upon the river Camlin. It gives title of baron to the family of Pakenham. Here is a *Charter-School* for 60 boys. "In a very early age (says Archdall) an Abbey was founded here, of which St. Idus, one of St. Patrick's disciples, was abbot: his feast is celebrated on the 14th of July.—A. D. 400, a very fine Monastery was founded here, to the honour of the Virgin Mary, for Friars of the order of St. Dominick, by O'Ferrall, Prince of Anally. On the 29th of January, 1615, King James I. granted this monastery to Francis Viscount Valentia. The church of this Friary is now the *Parish-Church*." In this town are also a *Gaol*, *Court-House*, *Market-House*, and *Barracks*.

NEWTON FORBES, north-west, is a small but pleasing village, with a good *Church*.

At KILLASHEE, south-west, are the ruins of an antique *Church*; and, near, those of *Brainstown Castle*.

KENAGH, considerably more south, is a small village, amidst pretty scenery, on a river of that name: not far from which is *Moss-Town*, the splendid residence of the noble family of Newcomen; with the ruins of a *Church* and *Castle* in its vicinity.

LANESBOROUGH, six miles south-west from Longford, is a borough-town, returning two members to parliament. It is situated on the extreme verge both of the counties of Longford and Roscommon, where they are separated by the river Shannon; the same river serving also to divide the province of Leinster from Connaught. This town now gives the title of earl to the noble family of Butler, as it formerly did that of viscount to the family of Lane. The magnificent river Shannon, upon

whose banks the tourist now first finds himself, is the most considerable river, in regard to size, to be found in any European island, although it is inferior to the Thames in the grand point of navigable utility. It takes its rise among the mountains near Swanlingbar, in Connaught; and shortly falls into Lough Allen, a fine sheet of water, eight or nine miles in length, and four or five in breadth. Then running through Lough Rea, a lake of about 15 miles long, and beautifully diversified with upwards of 60 islands, it proceeds onwards by Athlone, Shannon Bridge, Banagher, &c. to Lough Derg, a still larger lake, in which about 50 islands are scattered. The most extensive of these islands, called Ilanmore, contains above 100 well cultivated and fertile acres; another is called Holy Island, and contains the ruins of seven churches, and a lofty round tower. The river now flows on by Killaloe to Limerick, and is navigable from thence to the sea, which is 63 miles distant from that city. Its whole length therefore is as follows:

	Miles.
From its source to Athlone	66
From Athlone to Killaloe	52
From the last mentioned place to Limerick..	10
And from Limerick to the Sea	63
	<hr/>
	Miles 191

In this course it falls, over small cascades, in the following proportions:

	Ft.	In.
Between its source and Athlone	39	0
Between Athlone and Killaloe	14	10
And between Killaloe and Limerick, or only 10 miles, not less than	97	2
	<hr/>	
	Feet 151	0

Above Limerick, therefore, the Shannon is navigable only for boats, and that only for a few miles, or upon the lakes described.

The *Church* of Lanesborough, standing about 400 yards' distance from the river, is usually called Lanesborough *Abbey*, though no account of such a foundation appears in the Monasticon, or any other of the ecclesiastical records of Ireland. What remains of the original building is little more than a belfry, and part of the walls of the chapel, which, having been re-roofed some years back, is devoted to the purposes of a parochial edifice.

Lanesborough possesses a handsome stone *Bridge* over the Shannon into the county of Roscommon: the town being seated on this noble river just where it spreads into Lough Rea, the large lake just mentioned, at the southern termination of which it makes its outlet, and flows on to Athlone. Lough Rea is rendered picturesque by its numerous islands, but its margin is generally tame and flat.

RATHLINE, also on the Shannon, and about two miles from Lanesborough Bridge, has a *Castle* on the river's bank, at the foot of the beautiful hill of Rathline. This edifice, now in ruins, having been dismantled by Cromwell, is supposed to be one of the most ancient of its kind in Ireland. From the summit of the hill, the prospect over the adjacent country is very extensive.

We propose including the description of all the principal places to the north of the main line of the Grand Canal, and south of the high road to Athlone, in the present Excursion: and with this view, we now solicit the reader's attention to a southward detour from Mullingar, embracing in the first instance the town of KILBEGGAN, belonging to the Lambert family.

This is a place of little importance, but its neighbourhood commands some pretty river scenery on the *Brosna*, which, more northwardly, issues from Lough Ennel; and there are besides some ruins of a *Monastery*.

PHILIPSTOWN, sometimes called KILLADERRY, though but a sorry village, seated on the Grand Canal, is the shire town of King's County. It was named from Philip II. of Spain, husband to Mary Queen of England, who made this part of the county *shire-ground* in 1557. It gives title of baron to the family of Molesworth. Here is a spacious *Gaol*; and a *Castle*, now in ruins, built in former ages by the Bellingham family.

Croghan Hill, three miles north of Philipstown, is beautifully clothed with luxuriant verdure to its top, which is conical, and is crowned by an ancient cemetery; at its base, are the ruins of a church.

Clara, Ballicumber, Ferbane, and Maystown, on the road from Kilbeggan to Ballinasloe in Connaught, are all places of trifling consideration, of which description were superfluous.

CLONMACNOIS,* sometimes called *Seven Churches*, the only deanry in the synod of the diocese of Meath, was formerly a bishop's see. It is situated on the east bank of the Shannon, a few miles north of Maystown, and will greatly interest the antiquary by the ruins of its once splendid *Abbey*, and some small remains of the numerous buildings anciently standing contiguous. Archdall's account of this grand religious foundation is very interesting.

—“ This monastery, which belonged to the regular canons of St. Augustin, was peculiarly and universally esteemed: it was uncommonly extensive, and amazingly

* The name of this place, pronounced *Cluainmacneesh*, is said to be derived from *Cluain*, ‘a retired lawn, or small nook of land, free from wood or rocks, near a river,’ and *Mac-naoish*, (pronounced *Ænneesh*) son of *Ænguish*, the adopted son of *Enghisius*, who is recorded to have been the abbot that succeeded to Kieran, the founder of the monastery here. But in the 11th number of *Vallancey's Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*, William Beauford, Esq. defines *Cluainmacnois* to be ‘the retirement or resting-place of the sons of the chiefs.’

enriched by various kings and princes. Its landed property was so great, and the number of cells and monasteries subjected to it so numerous, that almost half of Ireland was said to be within the bounds of Clonmacnoise. And what was a strong inducement, and contributed much towards enriching this house, it was believed that all persons who were interred in the holy ground belonging to it, had insured to themselves a sure and immediate ascent to heaven: many princes (it is supposed for this reason) chose this for the place of their sepulture; it was the Iona of Ireland. Yet, notwithstanding the reputed sanctity of this monastery, and the high estimation in which it was holden by all ranks of people, it appears that the abbey and town were frequently plundered, burnt, and destroyed, by despoilers of every kind, from the unpolished Irish desperado, to the empurpled king. The abbey also suffered by the hands of the barbarous Ostmen; and not only by them, but (with concern do we add) by the *English* then settled in the kingdom; whose errand thither, we would wish to think, was to conciliate the affections of the people, to unite them in the bonds of friendship, and teach them to live like fellow-citizens and subjects: instead of this, we are compelled to say, that they too often joined in the sacrilegious outrages of other wicked men, and repeatedly disturbed and despoiled the peaceful seminary of Clonmacnoise; sparing neither book, vestment, or any other appendage of the sacred altar, which belonged to these truly inoffensive men.*

* Dr. Ledwich, we conclude, must have stood aghast at this description of the 'brave and pious' 'English or Norman' settlers, whom he is so ready to extol for virtues, and sage colonizing principles and habits, the beneficial effects of which would have been too obvious in the present state of the island to need his pointing out to his countrymen, had they in truth ever existed. Well might he charge the modest and pains-taking Mervyn Archdall with 'ignorance and anility,' when the information subtracted by that learned

“ The situation of Clonmacnoise is delightful. It stands about 10 miles from Athlone, on the banks of the Shannon, and is raised above the river on ground composed of many small elevations, on which are a few of the buildings that did belong to this ancient house. Several other ruins appertaining to it may also be seen in the little valleys between the hills. The whole is bounded to the east and north with very large bogs.

“ Here are two *Round Towers*, elegantly built of hewn stone; the larger, which is called *O'Rourk's*, and wants the roof, is 62 feet in height, and 56 in circumference; and the walls are three feet, eight inches, in thickness. The other tower, called *Mac Carthy's*, is seven feet in diameter within; and the walls are three feet in thickness, and 56 in height, including the conical-shaped roof. The next considerable building we find here, is the *Cathedral*, which was the ancient Abbey, (founded in the year 548, by St. Kieran :) the doors of it are richly carved. There are several old monuments in this church, on which are inscriptions, said to be partly in Hebrew”* and partly in Irish.

“ At length, this Abbey, which was formerly endowed with very large possessions, suffered a gradual decline, and in the course of time was reduced and despoiled of all its property. The cemetery contained about two Irish acres, on which 10 other churches were afterwards built by the kings and petty princes of the circumjacent country; who, though at perpetual war whilst living, were here content to rest peaceably beside

and laborious writer from so many valuable and authentic records, teemed with such proofs as those preserved in the annals of Clonmacnois, of his own gross partiality, and unfounded dogmatisms, in describing the ‘Antiquities’ of Ireland!

* Allowing this to be correct, (and it is to be observed that Archdall does not speak positively on this subject,) the fact can only be accounted for, by supposing the learned inmates of ancient Clonmac-

each other. The several founders named these churches as follows: *Temple Righ*, or *Melaghlin's Church*, built by O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, and to this day it is the burial-place of that family; *Temple O'Connor*, built by O'Connor Dun; *Temple Kelly*; *Temple Finian*, or *Mac Carthy*, built by Mac Carthy-More, of Munster; *Temple Hurpan*, or *Mac Laffy's Church*; *Temple Kieran*; *Temple Gauney*; *Temple Doulin*, which is now the parish church; and *Temple Mac Dermot*: this last was much larger than any of the others; and before the west door stands a large old cross of one entire stone, much defaced by time, on which was some rude carving, and an inscription in antique and unknown characters: the north doors are very low, but guarded with small pillars of fine marble, curiously hewn. Another of these churches hath within it an arch of greenish marble, flat wrought, and beautifully executed; the joints of which are so close, that the whole appears to be of one entire stone. Besides the cross before mentioned, there are three others in the church-yard. Here we also find *Temple Easpie*, or *The Bishop's Chapel*; and on the west of the cemetery lie some ruins of the *Episcopal Palace*, which may still be seen. The 9th of September is annually observed as the patron-day; when great numbers, from the most distant parts of Ireland, assemble here in pilgrimage:—A religious house for nuns appears to have been founded here early.”*

In addition to the above, we gather, from the “Statistical Account or Parochial Survey,” the following interesting particulars of the present state of the antiquities,

nois to have become familiar with the Hebrew characters through their acquaintance with the Sacred writings in that language: we have no passion for referring any of the Irish antiquities (and certainly, therefore, nothing to be found in the most ancient Christian cathedral) to a *Phœnician* era.

* Monast. Hibern. pp. 379 et seq.

and other objects worthy of remark, in the parish of Clonmacnois.

The ruins of all the 10 churches mentioned by Archdall are still to be seen. At a short distance from them are remains of the bishop's palace; some parts of the walls of which have alone escaped the ravages of time. Not far off stands a remnant of the nunnery, consisting only of a single arch. The church-yard formerly attached to this extensive monastic establishment, (the abbey,) continues to be one of the greatest burial-places in Ireland; upwards of 400 interments being supposed to take place here annually.

On the patron-day, alluded to by the author of the *Monasticon*, from 3 to 4000 people usually assemble, to do honour to St. Kieran, the tutelar saint, and for the purposes of penance: numbers come even from the county of Donegal. Tents and booths are erected round the church-yard for the accommodation of this assemblage of devotees. They continue here two days; and so often do these meetings end in quarrels, (from the effects of which many are confined to their beds for weeks afterward,) that some respectable inhabitants have thought that their abolition would be every way desirable.

In 1816, from every information that could be procured, it appeared that there were 586 families resident in the parish; comprising 1618 males, and 1558 females. *Eight* only of these families were Protestant, the remainder Roman-catholics. For the accommodation of these eight families there is a church; and a good glebe-house, with 40 acres of land attached, is associated with the living, which is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Meath. Tythes are collected from all sorts of grain, at from 8s. to 12s. per acre, (there are 3723 acres of arable land in the parish;) and from sheep, at the rate of £1. 13s. 4d. per hundred; but

neither meadow, potatoes, nor rape, pay tithe. There are two Roman-catholic chapels, numerous attended, with a priest to each. As this district abounds with hills, their tops are allotted to pasturage; and the vallies, being tilled, produce fine crops of corn, although the general appearance of the soil, which is very light and sandy, might lead at first view to an opposite conclusion. There is a lake, called *Clonfalagh*, which is computed to cover 90 acres, and more than double the number of acres employed in tillage are occupied by a bog. Most of the cultivated land is set in farms of from 10 to 15 acres; there are only a few comprising 25 acres: the general acreable rent is from a guinea and a half to two guineas: there are not (as is too common) any duty-services, or payments exacted from the tenants. The average wages of the labourer are 10d. a day in summer, and 8d. in winter. The stock is chiefly cows, horses, and sheep of the old Irish breed. There is not one resident possessor of a fee-simple estate; neither, if we except the glebe-house, is there more than one good slated house, which belongs to the holder of about 200 acres. The cottages are mostly of stone, (that material being common in the neighbourhood,) and thatched: they make a rather neat appearance, and are tolerably comfortable within.

As to the population, they are not in general in such circumstances of poverty, as from some of the facts just cited might be imagined. Potatoes and milk form the common articles of diet; to which fish is often added, procured either from the river Shannon or from the lake. The poorest usually keep one cow, and some have three or four: there are few who have not besides one working-horse, and some two. The fuel is turf, which is plentiful and of good quality. The costume is usually of grey frieze, or coarse blue cloth.

The people are industrious; courteous to strangers,

but of a stubborn disposition, it is said, in their intercourse with each other. Their general language is English, but they occasionally hold discourse in Irish. The male children are brought up to husbandry, and the females employed in spinning. There are no public schools; but the parish-clerk keeps a licenced Protestant school, which is very badly attended, not more than 15 children receiving instruction from him. There are, however, three Roman-catholic schools, whose average number of pupils fluctuates from 40 to 80: the quarterly salary for tuition in these is 1s. 8d. for reading and spelling; 3s. 4d. for writing and arithmetic.

The parish, which comprehends in all upwards of 12,000 acres Irish, and is about eight miles long by three broad, contains one collection of dwellings of town, or rather village-like appearance. This is called *Shannon-Bridge*, from a very handsome bridge there built across the river. It has a few slated houses, of two stories; the rest, in number about 300 are thatched. There is a small barrack, capable of accommodating a company of soldiers; and a magazine has been erected in its rear. A large tower, and battery, occupy the western (or Connaught) side of the bridge; the necessity for which is supposed to be derived from its being the great pass from that province into Leinster. The want of a market at this place is severely felt by the soldiers, who are obliged to frequent that at Ballinasloe, six miles distant. The inn is nothing more than a car-driver's stage; but there are several shops which retail unlicensed spirits, better known throughout the country by the name of *Shebeen-houses*.

We make no apology for the introduction of these details relative to this particular parish; since they are calculated to convey an excellent statistical view, in several respects, not of Clonmacnois alone, but of this general neighbourhood. Our authority for them, as

we have stated, is the Parochial Survey, already more than once alluded to; and we feel that we can add nothing of importance to the remarks of such competent judges, by situation and experience, as the parochial incumbents in the several provinces and counties.

Accident having on one occasion introduced us to the interior of one of the *Shebeen-houses* mentioned above, we were rather amused by the conversation of two peasants of the country, who had been taking their 'morning' there, and were now engaged in discourse upon what appeared to be to them a most important subject. The fumes of the whiskey were somewhat visible in the countenances of both; besides which, there was an expression of mingled archness and insinuation in the face of the one, which oddly contrasted with the good-natured, *bothered*, half-penetrative and half-duped, half-reluctant and half-complying, physiognomy of the other. It was easy to see, that the first was soliciting a favour, which the latter neither knew how to grant nor to refuse.—“And will you lend me the rope?”—were the terms in which the mighty boon desired was so earnestly requested; but never were these important words permitted to escape the mouth of the applicant, until a volley of persuasion and flattery had smoothed their passage to the ears of his companion; who, by the contortion of his features, occasioned by their at once wincing and smiling, betrayed at the same moment feelings both of gratification and distress. In vain did the possessor of the required article endeavour to remind his urgent friend of some small pecuniary obligation, as yet uncanceled by repayment, which he had formerly conferred on him; so well did the other, without seeming to notice any hints of this nature, intimate, without directly promising, a speedy satisfaction of this old score, and so adroitly by incessant praises of the rope-owner's honesty, kind-heartedness, and so forth, did he continue

to urge his present suit, that all resistance on the part of the latter was at length overcome, and they left the Shebeen-house together, apparently in quest of the object that had been with so much pertinacity desired. We longed for a dramatic representation, from the pen of an Edgeworth, of this little scene: for ourselves, we are sufficiently convinced, that our utter inadequacy to follow the language of the actors, must deprive our sketch of the characteristic spirit and effect we could have wished to convey into it.

Resuming our direct route from Mullingar to Athlone, we first reach RATHCONRATH, a village of no importance; to the right, is BALNA-CARIG, and, as we proceed, MOIVORE; both equally uncelebrated.

BALLYMORE, or LOUGHSENDY, a village midway between Mullingar and Athlone, possesses some objects of interest: among others, a neat *Church*, and the ruins of a *Castle*. Loughsendy has on its banks the ancient *Monastery* of Plassey.—“An abbey was founded here, A. D. 700, or probably before that time. We know no more of this ancient abbey; but are told, that in 1218, the family of Lacie erected a monastery here, in honour of the Virgin Mary, for Gilbertines, which order consisted of canons of Præmonstre order, and nuns following the rule of St. Benedict; they lived under the same roof, but in separate apartments.”*

KILLININNEY, on the right, has a dilapidated *Castle*, that may be inspected by travellers ‘in search of the picturesque;’ though we would not recommend others to consider it worth while to go out of their way for the purpose.

At MOATE GRENOGUE, on the left, is a good inn, for the accommodation of such as wish minutely to explore the surrounding district; which comprehends the remains of numerous other antique *Castles*, &c.

* Monast. Hibern. p. 706.

DRUMRANY, or DRUMRATH, is something more than two miles west from Ballymore. A famous *Monastery* was founded here, (says Archdall) A. D. 588, in honour of St. Enan, whose festival is celebrated on the 19th of August. In the year 946, this monastery, with 150 persons in it, was burnt to the ground by the Ostmen.

KILKENNY WEST lies three miles farther in the same direction. Agreeably to the authority just quoted, "an *Abbey* was founded here in the early ages; for we find that the Abbot St. Scannail died A. D. 773. A Priory, or Hospital, was afterwards erected in this town for Cross-bearers, or Crouched Friars, under the invocation of St. John the Baptist. Some writers erroneously give the foundation to the family of Tyrell; but from the best authority we say, that Friar Thomas, a priest, and grandson of Sir Thomas Dillon, who came into Ireland A. D. 1185, was the founder of this house, and lies interred here. There was also a *Holy Well* at this village, dedicated to the Virgin Mary."

At *Maghre-Tibot*, or *The Field of Theobald*, in this vicinity, see the field of battle, where Sir Theobald de Vernon fell in a contest with some of the Irish clans.

At a village in this vicinity, Mr. Curwen notices his having encountered an interesting funeral procession. 'The *dirge*,' he observes, 'which had sounded so harsh and discordant at Cork, was conducted here in a manner and with an effect totally different. The performers were young females. The corpse, we were told, was that of a female under 20, who appeared to be greatly lamented, as we observed many a tearful eye. The tones and cadence of the mourners partook so much of real grief, as to give a character of feeling to the whole, and created a deep and painful interest. I did not suspect the Irish funeral ceremony could

have been rendered so truly impressive and affecting.' This is characteristic; as is the following:—

‘How variously checquered are the scenes of life! We had scarcely recovered from the melancholy sensations the last spectacle had produced, when our attention was arrested by a large party, assembled at the entrance of a village, and engaged in dancing *reels* in the road. Their performance, which by no means disgraced them as dancers, exhibited so much life and spirit, that we became interested spectators of their rural festivity. Such was the buoyancy of youth, animated by the presence of beauty, that the discordant notes of a miserable fiddle called forth a joy and light-heartedness truly enviable.’—An observation, which has been made by some, that people are often light-hearted as they are poor, applies here in its full force: perhaps, to be divested of the riches, is sometimes felt to be divested of the incumbrances of life; and we all know that people dance the lighter for their being *perfectly unshackled*—which, in this respect, is undoubtedly the case with the majority in Ireland.

The country, as we approach Athlone, is still flat, and has few natural beauties to recommend it. On the left are some venerable remains of *Garry Castle*.

ATHLONE is a considerable town, and rendered important as commanding the passage of the Shannon, on which it is situated, and by means of which it communicates with the Grand Canal. On these accounts, it is the station of a large military force and numerous staff. Lines have also been thrown up on the bank of the Shannon; but, though they might serve to protect the place in the event of any sudden popular commotion, they could oppose no effectual barrier to a regular force.

In Twiss's "Tour in Ireland in 1775," occurs a curious notice of the Canal, the communication of which

with Athlone at length forms a subject of just exultation for the country at large. “In 1765,” says that writer, “a canal was begun to be cut from this place, (Dublin) and intended to be continued to Athlone, which is about 70 English miles, in order to open a communication with the Shannon:—at the rate the work is at present carried on, it bids fair for being completed *in three or four centuries*.” We see from this the immense increase that must have taken place in the exertions of the undertakers, on the government’s promulgation of their bounty-scheme.

Athlone is fifty-nine miles, Irish, north by west from Dublin. It is partly in the county of Westmeath, and province of Leinster, and partly in the county of Roscommon, and province of Connaught; the divisions made by the Shannon being united by a strong, high-raised, and well-built *Bridge*. This town sends one member to Parliament: the patronage is in the families of Lord Castlemain and St. George. The magistrates are, a sovereign, vice-sovereign, two bailiffs, a recorder, deputy, and town-clerk. It gives title of Earl to the Dutch family of Ginckle, as a reward for the services performed by the General of that name in the year 1691. The Right Hon. Viscount Dillon is Constable and Governor of the garrison. There is a *Charter-School* for 40 boys; and, near, a celebrated *Chalybeate Spring*. The place was formerly rich in antiquities: but they were nearly all destroyed in the civil wars of Ireland: but the *Castle* yet remains, defended by numerous guns.—“Here we find an *Abbey*, which was founded for Cistercian monks, under the invocation of St. Peter. Other writers give the dedication to St. Benedict, and say it was founded for monks of his order. In a table of the procurations of the Church of Elphin, this is called the Monastery de Innocentiâ. In that part called the *English Town*, situate on the

east coast of the Shannon, a monastery was founded for Conventual Franciscans by Cathal, or Charles Croibh Dearg O'Connor, Prince of Connaught, who, not living to finish the building, it was completed by Sir Henry Dillon.*

* Archdall.

END OF VOL. II.

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EXCURSIONS
THROUGH
I R E L A N D :

COMPRISING
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DELINEATIONS

TOGETHER WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESIDENCES OF THE
NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
Remains of Antiquity,
AND EVERY OTHER OBJECT OF INTEREST OR CURIOSITY.

FORMING A COMPLETE GUIDE

FOR THE
TRAVELLER AND TOURIST.

—
BY THOMAS CROMWELL.
—

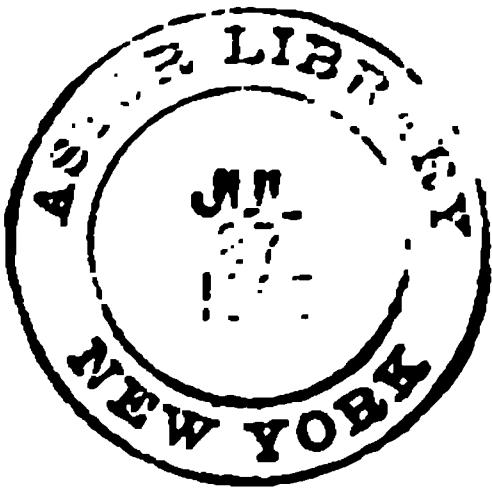
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DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

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EXCURSION X.

From Dublin, through Rathcoole, Johnstown, Naas, Kildare, Monastereven, Maryborough, Ballynakill; and Ballyragget, to Kilkenny.

THE environs of Dublin, at this outlet from the city, are pretty: the country is rich, and the numerous seats of the gentry and opulent citizens contribute greatly to diversify and confer interest upon the scenes that meet the eye of the traveller. The Hospital at Kilmainham, the Gaol, &c. are passed by this route; and the Grand Canal soon appears, and is crossed by a neat bridge: its progress may be traced to some distance from the road, by the trees which are planted in an ornamental manner on its banks. The cottages in general have an air of comfort, and are *not without* chimnies: numbers of the peasantry, however, (and particularly the women and children) are to be seen barefoot. As we proceed, the Round Tower at Clondalkin forms a pleasing object on the right.

RATHCOOLE, gives title of Viscount to the family of Tracey. It is a place of no interest or consideration.

The road continues to command good views of the country, which is tolerably wooded, and wants nothing to complete its richness but the hedge-rows of England. The Dublin and Wicklow mountains have been seen for some time on the left, adding no common features of the picturesque to the views. Many of the cottages by the way-side are still in ruins—memorials of the rebellion of 1798, and speaking volumes upon the relentless fury of civil war.

We presently cross the imaginary line that separates the counties of Dublin and Kildare. In the latter county, four miles W. by S. from Rathcoole, is the village of OUGHTERARD, where may be seen another specimen of the *Round Tower*. It stands on the summit of a hill, with an ancient church, as usual, nearly adjoining it.

Bishop's Court, to the right of our road, is a handsome mansion, with rich demesne attached, belonging to Lord Ponsonby. *Furnace*, in the same direction, but nearer Maynooth, is a beautiful seat, greatly improved of late years; with ruins of an ancient chapel on the lawn, in which is a window of painted glass, of high antiquity and extreme beauty.

JOHNSTOWN, may be recommended to the tourist only for its 'good and quiet Inn,' noticed by Sir R. C. Hoare.

The mountains on the left dwindle into hills, and recede into the distance, as we approach NAAS. This is a rather considerable town, and was formerly a place of note, honoured by the residence of the kings of Leinster. On the arrival of the English, it was strongly fortified, and many castles erected, the ruins of which are still visible. In 1316, Bruce led his Scots hither to occupy themselves in spoiling the churches, opening the tombs in search of treasure, and eventually in burning the town. In 1419, Archbishop Talbot, then Lord-Deputy, held a parliament here: and in 1648, the Earl of Ormond temporarily secured Naas; but it was afterwards more than once taken and plundered by the contending parties.

This town gives title of Viscount to the family of Bourke, now Earls of Mayo. It contains the county *Gaol* and *Sessions-House*, and has extensive *Barracks*. The body of the *Church* is substantial, and in good repair; but the tower remains, as it has ever been, unfinished. The *Parsonage house*, is built upon the site of one of the ancient castles. There is a good *Inn*, at which the stages

proceeding by this road usually stop, and which provides post horses. The assizes are held here, and at Athy, alternately.

At one end of the town, at the foot of one of those artificial mounts known by the general name of *Raths*, stand some ruins of an *Abbey*, founded, in 1484, for Friars Eremites of the order of St. Augustin. Part of a wall, and a belfry, are all that is now standing.

At KILLISHY (or KILLOSSY) one mile and a half south, is a *Church*, in a singular style of architecture as to its tower, the upper part of which is *round*; and it is unlike the tower of any other ecclesiastical structure, that unites with the sacred edifice, in the island. An antiquarian, to whom we have already frequently alluded, would appear to confound this tower with the Irish round towers in general, observing only upon the distinction between it and the other round towers, that it actually makes a part of the church. But the fact is, that it has altogether a different character from the round towers of Ireland, properly so called, although it strongly assimilates with those to be found in union with several churches near the eastern coasts of England. The peculiar marks of the genuine Irish round towers are, that from the base to the apex they are equally round*—but the church tower of Killishy does not assume the circular form until after it has surmounted the body of the fabric; that (in general, though not always) they

* The only exception to this general rule occurs in the instance of the Round Tower at *Kineath*, in Cork, whose basement story is a regular hexagon. But this exception rather confirms the accuracy of the rule itself than otherwise; for tradition ascribes the erection of the structure in question to the year 1015; a period when the Danes, having obtained possession of so large a portion of the kingdom, and particularly of the maritime counties, may with great probability be supposed to have themselves built this individual tower, in imitation of the ancient Irish style. It is somewhat remarkable, that in the case of no other building of this kind in the island, that we are acquainted with, does tradition assign so late a date, by several centuries, as 1015, for that of its erection.

diminish in diameter as they rise, becoming taper at the top—but this at Killishy does not; and that they have four apertures near the summit, opposed to the four cardinal points of the compass—while Killishy church-tower has none, except an opening in one of its battlements, (which is much higher than the rest) evidently intended for a bell. There can be little doubt, therefore, that this church-tower, in common with those attached to the churches of Halling, in Kent, and Little Saxham, in Suffolk, is of Danish origin; the structures which bear any resemblance to this in England, it has been before observed, are there ascribed by tradition to the Danes; and since the Danes, and the Irish of Belgic descent, agreeably to Dr. Ledwich's own theory, were derived from a common Scythic stock, there can be nothing extraordinary, in the discovery of *some similarities*, (such as the partial use of the circular form, &c. as upon a future opportunity will be adverted to) together with yet more and greater *differences*, between the architectural efforts of the two nations. But if the more ancient structures—as in general we conceive them to be—the genuine Irish round towers, were also Danish, why, we ask the learned Doctor's admirers, does not the tradition of the parts of the country in which they are found universally ascribe them to the Danes, (when on the contrary it always gives them an Irish origin) as does the universal tradition of the vicinities to the structures like Killishy church in England? Why, also, if the round towers are to be considered as buildings of a style peculiar to the Danes, and not to the Irish, have none ever been discovered in Denmark?*

* We will avail ourselves of the present occasion to put a farther query to the converts to the same gentleman's opinions—how are the following passages in Dr. Ledwich's Continuation of Grose (pp. 84, and 97, vol. II.) to be reconciled to each other?—"Let its age (that of Killishy church) be what it may, we know from the instance of St. Kevin's Kitchen at Glendaloch....that the original campanile or belfry was a *distinct structure* almost every where," &c.—"St.

The name Killishy, or Killossy, is a corruption from the *kill*, or church, of St. Auxil, who was nephew, says Archdall, to St. Patrick, and for whom the original ecclesiastical establishment was founded by the great apostle of Ireland. St. Auxil, according to the same authority, died August the 27th, A. D. 454.

The *Castle* at Killishy, a square strong battlemented tower, has been converted into the offices of a modern mansion contiguous.

There is a road from Naas, by Killishy, and continued through Kilcullen and Athy, to Maryborough, which we shall describe, before we recommence our excursion by the route proposed to the last-mentioned town.

As we leave Naas, the Wicklow mountains are still seen on the left; and on the right, the Kildare mountains, with lovely plains and vales, and gentle hills, in the foreground.

KILCULLEN, called Old Kilcullen to distinguish it from the new town of the same name, is a town of very ancient date. Archdall says: "A Monastery was founded here in a very early age: and St. Patrick appointed St. Isernin bishop of it, who died A. D. 469, and was succeeded by St. Mactalius, son of Corcran, a disciple of St. Patrick: he died on the 11th of June, in the year 548, of the plague called Cronchonnail. Old Kilcullen was a large walled town, with seven gates: one only remains now, which is 10 feet wide, with a handsome arch. In 1319, a bridge was built about a mile north-west of the town, over the river Liffey, by Maurice Jakis, a canon of the church of Kildare, where another town immediately sprang up, called *Kilcullen-Bridge*; and from this era we may date the fall of Old Kilcullen. In the church-yard is an ancient *Round Tower*, not exceeding 50 feet in height, with four windows; it

Kevin's Kitchen, where the round tower *makes part of the fabric!*"
 "St. Kevin's Kitchen....at the west end is a round tower, 45 feet high, *approximating, but not completely joined, to the church!*"

does not appear ever to have been higher. To the east of the town is the shaft of a single *Cross*, of a stone, 10 feet high; and in a garden, bounding the north of the church-yard, is the pedestal of another cross."

The Round Tower spoken of above is, in fact, only 40 feet in height; but it is 44 feet in circumference, and the walls three feet and a half in thickness. The door is seven feet from the ground. There is nothing in the ecclesiastical or other history of Kilcullen, as has just been seen, to countenance the idea that this is a Danish erection; notwithstanding that it wants the altitude, and elegant taper form, of the generality of such structures: its ruinous state, considering its trifling height and the thickness of the walls, is a further argument in favour of its much greater antiquity; since none of the edifices, assuming the rotund or any other form, in the island, to which there exists reason for ascribing a Danish origin, present any such appearances of dilapidation as does this.

Neither shall we call the very curious Cross, of which a plate occurs in our work, "evidently Danish," in imitation of a writer who appears content to follow the lead of a third person, instead of examining and judging for himself. It would seem far more rational to us, and to all, as we should judge, who are acquainted with the history of the Danes in Ireland, to refer such works of mere ornament, unconnected with any useful design, to a more remote and peaceful era, when intestine violence and war were not likely to prevent the cultivation of elaborate art—as they undoubtedly were from the period of the settlement of the northern hordes, until their final extirpation by the English in the reign of Henry II. Crosses, of a *known* comparatively modern date, as they have not hitherto been encountered in these Excursions, are of course not alluded to in this general remark.

Our present route lies through the new town of Kilcullen, called Kilcullen Bridge; beyond which appears

the old town just described, with its ruinous round tower, and the remains of a church destroyed by the insurgents in 1798. Near, are two hills, on which the same misguided bands sustained a defeat in that year; and a breastwork, raised by them in the course of a night, is still visible. Beyond these elevations, the views are extensive, but embracing a country less wooded and cultivated, a prominent feature of which is the earth-banks in use for enclosures. On the stoppage of our vehicle at Kilcul-
len Bridge, a swarm of beggars surrounded us, of whose tatters we might be at a loss to convey an idea to the untravelled reader: their language of solicitation, was an equally indescribable mixture of flattery and of jest, of mirth and misery. We had observed the *stations* of numbers of this tribe by the road-side: they in general consist of ‘mud edifices,’ about the size of a watch-box, intended to screen their inmates from the weather: their usual site is a dry ditch.

NEW ABBEY, on the Liffey, is in the neighbourhood. “A monastery was founded here for Franciscans of the strict observance, in the year 1460, by Sir Rowland Eustace, son to Sir Edward Eustace, of Harrestown, Baron of Portlester, and many years Lord Chancellor and Treasurer of Ireland. A great part of the *Church* still remains, in which is a fine monument of Sir Rowland, the founder. The steeple fell to the ground about the year 1764.”*

The pretty village of BALLITORE lies to the left as we proceed to Athy. It is situated on the little river Griss, and, being chiefly an establishment of the people called Quakers, has, both in the houses and their well-cultivated gardens, the air of extreme neatness appropriate to that sect. The celebrated Edmund Burke spent a portion of his juvenile years, under the care of Mr. A. Shackleton, at the *School* at Ballitore.

Belan House, in the vicinity, the seat of the Earl of

* *Monast. Hibern*, p. 338.

Aldborough, was erected on or near to the site of an old castle which was demolished by Cromwell; upon which event, the former mansion was raised, but has since been pulled down and rebuilt. It is placed in a low situation, near the junction of two streams, which, at the distance of four miles, fall into the river Barrow. Plainness and convenience, rather than elegance, appear to have been studied in rearing this seat, although it is substantially built, and forms a good object at the end of the handsome avenue where it stands. The visitor is shewn a bed, which formed a part of the furniture of the old mansion, and in which, tradition says, the monarchs James II. and William III. both slept, in the course of the year 1690. The demesne is very extensive, and has the singularity of extending into five counties, Kildare, Dublin, Wicklow, Carlow, and Queen's County; and seven others may be seen from an eminence in the grounds, viz. King's, Meath, Westmeath, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary, and Kilkenny.

Timolin, Castle-Dermot, and Kilkea, lying in this angle of the county of Kildare, may be here described.

TIMOLIN, is one mile south from Ballitore. Here are the ruins of a *Castle*. Between this little place and Kilcullen-Bridge lies *Blackrath*, where is one of those mounds from which it is named, surrounded by trees. Near, a field is pointed out to the stranger, in which numbers of fallen combatants, of the royal and insurgent parties, were buried together, in 1798.

On the right, continuing to Castle-Dermot, is seen the *Tower* of Moone Castle, which received much injury from the native bands at the same memorable epoch. It stands on the banks of the Griss, which runs through the vale in its front. Several houses by the road-side are observed in ruins, also destroyed in 1798: we had no particular desire, nor indeed expectation, of hearing *bulls* from the inhabitants during our peregrinations in Ireland; yet our informant actually added to this intelli-

gence, that “not a house was left standing by the rebels, between this and Timolin, that was’nt burnt down by them.”

Contiguous to Moone Castle is a large *Church*—the walls, we should say, only—filled with rubbish, in which shrubs and weeds are now growing. The remains of this edifice occupy the summit of a hill. It is said to have been formerly attached to a Franciscan monastery.—“An old *Cross* still remains here, and several *Irish Inscriptions*.”* And near, is a large *Rath*, where a Counsellor Ash was interred by his own desire: it was then railed round, and planted with trees. Close to the Castle stands a handsome modern mansion, the proprietor of which may boast of a well-wooded demesne.

Ere reaching Castle Dermot, a ruined *Inn* is noticed, which, having been converted into a barrack, became another prey to the insurgents of 1798.

A solitary tower of the ancient *Castle* appears on the right, as we enter CASTLE DERMOT. This town lays claim, and with reason, to much higher antiquity than the city of Dublin, having been the residence of the ancient kings of Leinster, bearing the names of Dermot. It was large and well-fortified since the invasion of the Normans, though now making but a sorry appearance: and Parliaments have been held here; in one of which, (August 26, 1499) an act passed, inflicting certain penalties on such of the nobility as rode without *saddles*: the natives however, from whom these nobility (English, or of English descent) condescended to borrow the practice, continued its use for upwards of 200 years afterwards.

On the settlement of the Normans, Henry II. granted O’Morthy or O’Mores country, the district in which Castle Dermot stands, to Walter de Riddlesford, whose daughter and heiress married the third Lord Offaley,

* Archdall.

the founder of the *castle* from which the town is named. A Priory was founded here in the reign of John. In 1264, Richard de Rupella, Lord Justice of Ireland, with Lords Theobald Botiller and John Cogan, were taken prisoners by the Fitzgeralds of Castle Dermot: a circumstance that at once evinces the power of that family, the weakness of the English government nearly a century after its establishment, and the acts of lawless violence to which the nobles of that age addicted themselves. But little subordination, little regard for the institutions of their conquerors, could be expected from the natives, when they saw their appointed rulers, who should have been pillars of support to those institutions, contemning the authority, and imprisoning the person, of the representative of majesty himself. A Monastery for Coventual Franciscans was founded in 1302, by Thomas, Lord Offaley, which 14 years afterwards, was pillaged, and nearly destroyed, by Bruce and his Scots; but in 1328, it had in great measure recovered its former appearance, and had a chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, built by Thomas, second Earl of Kildare, who with his wife Joan, daughter of Richard, Earl of Ulster, were interred in it. “ In 1414, (says Ledwich) Thomas Crawley, Archbishop of Dublin, advanced here in opposition to the rebels in Leinster, with a small party, and by prayer solicited the divine assistance. The event proved fortunate; the enemy was defeated..... In 1532, Gerald, the ninth Earl of Kildare, committed great devastations in Kilkenny; and, among others, Castle Dermot suffered considerably. In 1611, Castle Dermot was alternately in the possession of opposite parties. In 1650, it was taken by Colonels Reynolds and Hewson, and from that period its walls have mouldered away.”*

The ruins of the Franciscan *Friary* are still extensive and interesting. Its pointed arches are beau-

* Contin. of Grose, 82. 83.

tifully turned, and a noble and picturesque window strikes the eye of even the hasty traveller, as he passes through the town.

In speaking of the *Church* and *Round Tower*, we must again recur to the remote period when Leinster was an independent kingdom. Tradition tells us of a sacred edifice here so early as the year 500, of which St. Diermit was the founder: his festival is still annually celebrated on the 21st of June. The place was then called *Diseart Diarmuda*; and afterwards, for many years, *Tristledermot*. The Round Tower, it appears probable, was erected for the defence, in part at least of this establishment, either from the enemies of the Leinstrians, or the common enemies of the island, the Northumbrians of the seventh, or the early Danes of the eighth century. That the Danes themselves, of the ninth century, to whom the destruction of the original ecclesiastical establishment is so plausibly ascribed, should immediately proceed to erect a tower, one of whose purposes is so naturally conceived to have been to defend it, cannot be received as likely. It is observable, that the structure is at present used as a belfry; and, there can be little doubt, began to be such at the moment campaniles of any kind became in request for churches; but this no more proves that the round tower of Castle-Dermot never existed but as a campanile, than the fact that so many christian fanes are erected on the sites of druidic or other heathen temples, proves that such sites were always christian. The aspect of this round tower, with its upper two-thirds luxuriantly mantled with ivy, is picturesque in a high degree. The antique *Crosses* in the cemetery are well worthy of inspection: tradition reports one of them to be co-eval with the round tower.

The *Charter-School* of this town, which is for 40 boys, was the first established in the kingdom.

The tourist who should be proceeding from Castle-Dermot to Carlow, would not fail to notice the remark-

able straightness of the road which leads on, in that direction, to the boundary of Kildare: for three miles successively it preserves a direct line. We have observed this peculiarity in many other parts of the kingdom, and in a yet greater degree in France, and other continental countries; but we do not recollect an instance of it, to any extent, (except perhaps over the few uncultivated wastes,) in England. We may err in opinion, and yet will venture to submit the cursory remark, that this difference in the countries mentioned may not have been altogether accidental; we in fact conceive, that the strong hand of power has operated, not more under the despotic governments of the continent than under the former despotic government of Ireland, to bring the roads as nearly as possible to an unvarying line; while that, in England, the public ways are almost uniformly devious and winding, because that there the niceties of private possession and property have from time immemorial been far more sacredly regarded.—In travelling this particular road, upon a former occasion, we were more than ordinarily struck with a cluster of buildings, surrounding a pretty spacious muck-yard, such as usually compose the *establishment* of a small farmer in this part of the province. They were all of heights, forms, dimensions, and materials, so similar, that the eye searched in vain to discover which might be the dwelling of the host; until a hen hopping out from the threshold of one of them, and a pig nearly at the moment protruding his nose from the same open doorway, the difficulty was solved—we were then immediately convinced, that there would be found all the rest of the inmates of the good-natured and social family.

KILKEA will interest by the agreeable picture it presents of an ancient *Castle*, fitted up as an handsome and comfortable modern residence. We are so happy always to quote the very words of the antiquarian to whose labours we hold ourselves so greatly indebted, that we

shall favour the reader with its description from that writer entire. "This," he informs us, "was one of the castles which Lacy erected in Leinster in 1180, and is, like the rest of them, of great strength. In 1414, the O'Mores and O'Dempsies wasted the English pale: to curb their outrages, Thomas Crawley, Archbishop of Dublin, and Lord Justice, set out from Dublin, but proceeded no farther than Castle-Dermot: the troops went forward under military leaders, he remaining engaged in processions and prayers for their success. The event answered his expectations, for the enemy were defeated with great slaughter at Kilkea.

"In 1426, John the sixth Earl of Kildare, strengthened Kilkea with so many new works, that he might be said almost to have new built it. It is situated on a rising ground, and commands an extensive prospect: the river Grisso runs at a small distance, and to the eastward is a church, the resting-place of the Kildares and St. Legers. You enter the bawn, which is behind the castle, by an arch: this entrance is defended by a round tower projecting from the castle. In front of the building is another, and at the west end a round tower. In one of the rooms, over the chimney-piece, under the Leinster arms, is the date 1573: this was done by Gerald, the 11th Earl of Kildare, who was wonderfully preserved after the execution of his father. In 1552, he was restored in blood and honours by Edward VI. and had that year the lordship of Kilkea confirmed to him. He signalized himself in all the subsequent Irish wars, and was a firm support of the English government."—The Castle of Kilkea is the property of his Grace the Duke of Leinster, and is at present inhabited.

ATHY is a rather considerable town, incorporated by King James I. in 1615, and is governed by a sovereign, two bailiffs, and a town-clerk. It is situated upon the river Barrow, by which it is divided into two parts; and contains two parishes, St. John, a chapelry, and St.

Michael, an improprieate parish, each perpetually united to the vicarage of Nicholastown, which is two miles and a half distant. This is the assize-town for Kildare, alternately with Naas, and contains a *Prison*, formed by a part of an ancient Castle; and a *Free School*. It is 52 miles south-west from Dublin; has six post-days in the week; and six annual fairs, viz. on the 17th of March, 25th of April, 9th of June, 25th of July, 10th of October, and 11th of December. Of two Pories formerly situate here, there are no existing remains.

At Athy, a fine branch from the Grand Canal, which leaves the main trunk at the summit level near Prosperous, terminates in the river Barrow. The distance this branch performs is $22\frac{1}{4}$ miles; in the course of which it descends upwards of an 103 feet, through two double and nine single locks, and passes one ascending single lock at Monasterevan. The Barrow is navigable from hence to its mouth in the harbour of Waterford.

At KILBERRY, near Athy, are the ruins of an ancient *Church*, formerly attached to an abbey; and in the vicinity are those also of two antique *Castles*. The country around is well studded with seats of the gentry: among them is *Birt*, the noble residence of the Burgh family, possessing, among its other attractions, that of a very valuable library. Great improvement has been observed of late in the appearance of the peasantry of this neighbourhood: 20 years back, they were generally ragged and barefooted; but few are now to be seen otherwise than very decently apparelled.

The only place worth mentioning between Athy and Maryborough, is STRADBALLY, a small post-town, where is a *Charter-School* for 50 boys. Near, is *Brockly Park*, the noble mansion of the Earl of Roden, of the family of Jocelyn.

Leaving Naas, to pursue the immediate route of this excursion, we shortly perceive the shell of an immense unfinished but elegant mansion, called *Jigginstown*

House. This has been already alluded to, as a work commenced by the unfortunate Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, in the reign of Charles I. and intended by him as a country residence for himself and future Lords-Lieutenant of Ireland. A less desirable situation, (as Sir Richard Hoare observes) surely could never have been selected for a vice-regal palace!

A branch from the Grand Canal, executed by the Naas or Kildare Canal Company is now crossed. About six miles of this branch only are as yet finished, and the work has been relinquished for some years; but ere long, it is hoped, will be resumed, from a view to its obvious utility. It appears from a survey of Mr. John Killaly, in 1808, that this line, intended to pass through the counties of Kildare, Carlow, and Wicklow, will cross the Liffey on an aqueduct at Kilcullen Bridge, and, after a course of $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles and through 20 ascending locks, reaching its summit level, will cross the river Slaney, and, visiting Baltinglass, together with Hacketstown by a winding course, will terminate at Killelagh, about two miles and a half from the town of Shillelagh, 37 from its commencement at the main trunk near the Leinster Aqueduct, and $51\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Irish, from Dublin.

The *Leinster Aqueduct*, just mentioned, is but a short distance from Naas, and worthy the traveller's attention. It is indeed an admirable work, consisting in the whole of seven arches, with a circular tunnel to carry off superfluous waters on occasion of those extraordinary floods to which the Liffey, the river it crosses, is sometimes subjected. Being built in five feet water, in a stream that often rises to the height of 15 feet, it necessarily required great care in its construction: the foundation was accordingly sunk seven feet, through sand, gravel, and large stones, to a firm substrate of strong blue clay; and, notwithstanding the difficulties that naturally attended such a work, it was passable by boats in 18 months from

the day of its commencement. It is 78 feet longer than the Pont de Cesse, the largest aqueduct on the Royal Canal of Languedoc; is constructed on the most ingenious and permanent principles; cost £7,500; and does great credit to the architect.

The country continues richly cultivated, until we reach the famous *Curragh* of Kildare, a fine unequal down of short and sweet pasture, particularly adapted to the feeding of sheep, of which numerous flocks animate its whole vast extent.* This Curragh, the Newmarket of Ireland, contains 5000 English acres, and is generally allowed to surpass the English race-ground in elasticity of turf, and in characteristic beauty. It is under the superintendence of a Ranger. The meetings are held in the last week of April, on the second Monday in June, and on the second Monday in September; when King's Plates are run for by *Irish-bred* horses.

“The author of the *Iter* says, (writes Sir Richard Hoare) that the modern name of Kildare is derived from *Chille-dair*, or the *Wood of Oaks*; and that here was a large forest, comprehending the middle part of the present county of Kildare; in the centre of which was a large plain, sacred to heathen superstition, now called the Curragh. Ancient authors also allude to this circumstance; and Giraldus Cambrensis, in his “*Topography of Ireland*,” (Lib. II. Cap. 18) records a

* Speaking of the sylvan state of ancient Ireland, a writer in the “*Statistical Account*” has the remark that “no man whose opportunities have allowed him to make the necessary observations, can doubt, but that the island would be again covered with wood down to the water's edge, if the population and cattle were withdrawn. There would, however, be probably exceptions with respect to particular spots; for it is a curious fact, that, in the American forests, vacant spaces are occasionally found, upon which, according to all appearance, a tree has never grown since the beginning of time. A suspicion is entertained, that such was the case of the *Curragh* in the county of Kildare, even when Ireland was little else than a continued forest.”

stupendous monument of stones, situated on this plain, which, according to vulgar and fabulous tradition, was transferred from the extreme parts of Africa by the giants, from whom it took the name of *Chorea Gigantum*. It is also said to have had a second, and a very distant removal, from Ireland into the plains of Wiltshire, by the order of Aurelius Ambrosius, King of the Britons, and by the exertions of the prophet Merlin.—
 ‘ Fuit antiquis temporibus in Hiberniâ lapidum congeries admiranda, quæ et *Chorea Gigantum* vocata fuit; quia Gigantes eam ab ultimis Africæ partibus in Hiberniam attulerant, et in *Kildariensi* planicie tam ingenii quàm virium opere mirabiliter erexerant. Unde te ibidem lapides quidam aliis simillimi, similique modo erecti, usque in hodiernum conspiciuntur, &c. &c. Juxta Britannicam historiam lapides istos Rex Britonum Aurelius Ambrosius divinâ Merlini diligentia, de Hiberniâ in Britanniam advehi procuravit, &c. &c.’

“ By the above account, it appears that some of these stones were visible in the days of Giraldus. I regretted very much that I had not leisure to examine more minutely this extensive district, as, from the experience I have had on our Wiltshire plains, I think I might have made some interesting discoveries. The *tumuli*, dispersed over the plain, prove most evidently that it was inhabited in very early times; and, if properly opened, would throw a great light on the Irish history, and prove the connection both in manners and customs of the tribes inhabiting Ireland and the western provinces of England.”

KILDARE is rendered conspicuous to the traveller for some time previous to his arrival by its lofty round tower and monastic remains, situated on the ridge of a hill. This was made a borough-town in the reign of James the First, and is governed by a sovereign, two portrieves, and a town-clerk. It gave title of earl to the noble family of Fitzgerald, until the year 1766,

when the earl was created Duke of Leinster. Of the original church, and city, of Kildare, founded towards the end of the fifth century, there are no remains; both having been repeatedly plundered and destroyed by the Danish invaders of the island. The present town, which seems to stand eastward of the ancient one, is boldly situated on a rising ground; and consists of the *Cathedral*; part of the *Castle*, which is inhabited; the *County Infirmary*; the *Parish School*, adjoining the church: a *Market-House*; a *Roman-catholic Chapel*; and about 180 houses, most of which, however, are but indifferently built.

To the cathedral-church of St. Bridget are attached a Dean, a Precentor, (who is also Archdeacon of the diocese,) a Chancellor, a Treasurer, four Prebendaries, and four minor canons. The Bishop, (who is always Dean of Christ Church, Dublin,) has no residence, either in the place, or in any other part of the diocese: neither is there any residence for the Dean and Chapter, who are but poorly endowed. All the members of the cathedral, the Dean excepted, are represented by a Canon, who performs the duty of all. The revenues of the church, though inconsiderable, are faithfully employed in keeping the choir in repair; but the nave has been long in ruins. There is extant in the Registry a map of lands belonging to the bishopric; in which seven fields are distinguished as *Mensal Lands*; and another, adjoining the cathedral precincts, or church-yard, is entitled *The Palace*; but these lands have been long intersected by roads, and there have been no vestiges of the palace within the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the town. The bishopric comprehends parts of the county of Kildare, and of King's and Queen's Counties; its greatest length not exceeding 36, nor its greatest breadth 23 miles.

St. Bridget, the illegitimate daughter of an Irish chieftain, who was born in the year 453, received the veil

At the age of 14 from the hands of St. Patrick himself, or one of his immediate disciples, and who is said to have made a pilgrimage to Glastonbury Abbey in Somersetshire, founded a *Nunnery* here before the year 484, which soon became celebrated for the virtues and miracles of the foundress, and for an *unextinguishable fire* preserved by the female inmates of the house. This superstitious veneration for fire was no doubt derived from the notions inculcated by the Druids, who probably had a temple dedicated to that element on the spot where the nunnery stood: the early christians amalgamated some portions of the ancient faith with that they inculcated to their disciples; or at least permitted the retention of some of the more innocent heathen practices and articles of belief, from perceiving that it added strength, and even a sacred character, to their own doctrines, and procured them a more favourable reception from their intended converts. The hallowed fire here was never blown by human breath, but always by means of vans, or bellows; and a constant miracle attending it was, that, notwithstanding its perpetual consumption of fuel, its ashes never increased! About the same time with the nunnery, an *Abbey* was founded under the same roof, but separated by a wall from the former establishment. The nuns and monks had but one church, which they entered at different doors. St. Bridget presided over both; and, strange to tell! (says Archdall) the abbot of this house was subject to the abbess for several years after the death of the celebrated foundress, which occurred in the year 523, on the 1st of February, when her feast is still celebrated. She was interred here, but her remains were afterwards removed to the cathedral church of Down. In the annals of this monastic foundation it is recorded, that Dermot Mac Morrogh, King of Leinster, in the year 1135, forcibly took the abbess from her cloister, and compelled her to marry one of his own people; and

that, in 1220, Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin, extinguished the *unextinguishable fire*; which, however, being *relighted*, continued to burn as miraculously as ever until the total suppression of the monastery, whose very ruins are now extremely trifling.

The remains of the last existing building called *Kildare Abbey*, situated on the south side of the town, shew it to have been a strong and well-constructed, though not very spacious edifice. It was begun to be erected, for friars of the Franciscan order, in the year 1260, by Lord William de Vesci, but finished by Gerald Fitz-Maurice, Lord Offaley. The latter dying in 1286, at Rathmore, near Naas, was interred here.

Portions of the walls, and of the tower, of the church attached to this monastery, together with a ruined chapel, remain. The entire north side of the tower is wanting; and is said to have been destroyed by a battery planted against it in the rebellion of 1641. In the chapel are two effigies in alto-relievo; the one, representing a bishop in his robes, a pastoral staff in his right hand, and a mitre on his head, supported by two monkeys, is conjectured to memorialise Edmund Lane, Bishop of Kildare, who was buried here A. D. 1522: the other is a curious armed figure of Sir Maurice Fitz-Gerald of Lackugh, with an inscription, and five escutcheons variously emblazoned.

John Fitz-Thomas, the first Earl of Kildare, dying at Larraghbrine, near Maynooth, was buried in this church in 1316. Great contentions arising between this nobleman and William de Vesci above mentioned, who was Lord of Kildare and Lord Justice of Ireland, they mutually appealed to the King. The Lord Justice, consequently, was challenged; but, declining the combat, and flying into France, the King declared in favour of John Fitz-Thomas, and then erected for him the earldom. Three others earls of his house were buried in the friary.

The *Round Tower* nearly adjoining the building is a beautiful object, and in good preservation except as to its roof. It is 130 feet high; the summit of the walls battlemented; and the door-way 14 feet from the ground.

There was also in Kildare a House for Carmelites, or White Friars, founded by William de Vesci in the year 1290. This latter convent had in 1320 a celebrated abbot at its head, born in the town, named David O'Buge, whose fame was so great, that, according to Bale, he swayed the councils of the whole island; was in the highest estimation at Oxford, and at Treves in Germany; and wrote several learned works. "He was well versed in divinity, philosophy, rhetoric, and the canon and civil law; and was generally called the burning light, the mirror, and the ornament, of his country."*

The town of MONASTEREVAN has been greatly enlarged of late years by stores and new houses, in consequence of the vicinity of the Grand Canal. It is now a place of importance, having a flourishing trade, a considerable Protestant population, and a very handsome *Church*.

Monasterevan, or *Moore Abbey*, standing at a little distance from the place, in a demesne of 1100 acres, is the seat of the Marquis of Drogheda, and one of the noblest country residences in Ireland. The situation of the demesne, however, is low, near the Barrow; and the environs abound in bog. The edifice consists of a front, and spacious projecting wings; the whole battlemented; and the portico, windows, &c. all in the Gothic style. From its occupying the site of a religious house, which on the Suppression was granted to Lord Audley, but was by him assigned to Lord Viscount Ely, and afterwards came into the Marquis of Drogheda's family, it obtains its name. It is said St. Abban founded the abbey, and gave it the privilege of sanctuary; but that it was St.

* Archdall.

Evin who, in the seventh century, brought monks from South Munster, and settled them here. But, the ancient establishment going to decay, Dermot O'Dempsey, King of Ophaley, about the year 1177, granted to the monks the present site whereon to erect an abbey in honour of the Virgin Mary, together with lands of considerable value contiguous to it: a copy of this charter is to be seen in the English Monasticon. The abbot was of the Cistercian order, and had a seat in Parliament among the barons of the realm. In this abbey was kept the consecrated bell of St. Evin, called *Berman Emhim*, which was committed to the care of the Mac Eogans, hereditary justices of Munster, and was solemnly sworn by upon all causes by the sept of the Eoganachts.

A road branches to the right from Monasterevan to PORTARLINTON, which takes its name from Lord Arlington, (*Port* signifying a town) who came over with King William in 1689, with his regiment of French Protestants: for the accommodation of the latter the town was built, and his lordship inhabited the back part of the house now called Arlington Castle. This is a corporate town, and returns one member to Parliament. It is well and handsomely built, and consists of two main streets, meeting at right angles, with a square at their intersection. In the centre of this square stands the *Market-House*, which contains a room occasionally used for holding the quarter-sessions, the Seneschall's court, the monthly assembly, &c. On the western side appears the new English Church; and though there are no other public buildings, the French Church and a Meeting-house excepted, there are several handsome private residences, to each of which is attached a good garden. On account of the number of respectable inhabitants, and the general resort of the upper classes from the neighbouring country to this town, (chiefly for the facilities in regard to education which it affords for their children) the society here vies in elegance and

fashion with that of any other town in Ireland. There are two *Inns*; at one of which, (the Lion,) may be procured post-carriages and horses.

The *Schools* in Portarlinton, as may be judged from an observation just made, are rather numerous; and one of them enjoys the honour of having educated that distinguished nobleman the present Marquis of Wellesley. There are two Free-Schools, the first for teaching Latin and the other French; endowed with lands let for lives, renewable for ever, the former producing to the master £20, and the latter £12, annually. There are also two classical boarding-schools for boys; two French schools for young ladies; and two day-schools for writing, ciphering, and reading English. The Sunday-School, which should not pass unnoticed, was instituted a few years back, by Thomas Parnell, Esq. but owes its present flourishing state, and apparent permanence, to the patronage of two highly respectable ladies of the names of French and Stephens. Children of every religious denomination are invited to it, without distinction; and while those of Protestant parents are instructed from the formularies of the Establishment, especial care is taken not to interfere with the religious tenets of the Roman-catholic scholars. The number of pupils exceeds 100, and is rapidly increasing. The teachers perform their functions gratuitously, and all the expences of the school are defrayed by voluntary contributions.

The *Churches* mentioned are, properly speaking, extra-parochial chapels to that of Lea, the parish in which Portarlinton is situated. The English Church is of course used by the English Protestants, and the French by the French residents. The former is a very ornamental structure to the town, and has a handsome spire. The parochial church just mentioned stands southwards of the town, between the Portarlinton and Maryborough roads, on an eminence called *Windmill-Hill*,

and is also a handsome, and, from its situation, very conspicuous object. These three religious edifices have all been built within the last few years, by voluntary subscription, without the assistance of any parochial impost. To that on Windmill-hill, the Dean of Kildare munificently subscribed £500; and Mr. Warburton, besides his subscription of £50, gave the site of the church and church-yard; other gentlemen subscribing from £10 to £50 each. On the eastern or opposite acclivity of the hill to that on which this church stands, at Killenard, is a Roman-catholic chapel. The French and English Churches of the town are endowed with lands like the schools, producing to the minister of each £40 per annum: it is a singular fact, that if the leases of these lands were expired they would produce £1600 per annum. These churches and the free-schools were all endowed by Lord Galway, out of the forfeited lands of Sir Patrick Trant, when he was attainted. Parliament has added £50 per annum to the salary of the Chaplain of the French church; and, latterly, the Board of First Fruits has increased that of the Chaplain of the English church to £100 per annum.

It may be noticed in this place that, on the same side of Windmill-hill with the Roman-catholic chapel, stands *Mount Henry*, the elegant and tasteful seat of Henry Smyth, Esq. The view from this mansion is extremely picturesque; embracing the fertile sloping grounds of Ballybrittas; the Dysart Hills, that of Moore Abbey, and the gently swelling elevations of Kildare; the towns of Rathangan and Monasterevan; and the Wicklow and Wexford mountains in the distance. The grounds are agreeably laid out, and the plantations disposed to great advantage. There are also two *Raths* at Windmill-hill. The other gentlemen's seats in this vicinity, and dispersed throughout the parish of Lea, are too numerous to particularise.

Spire Hill lies between Windmill-hill and Portarling-

ton. It is so called from a spire erected on it by the late Lord Viscount Carlow, grand-father of the present Earl of Portarlington; this forms a conspicuous object, being visible, from the general flatness of the surrounding country, to a great distance: the hill is also well wooded, and intersected with many pleasing walks.

The venerable ruin called *Lea Castle* stands on the banks of the Barrow, to the right of the road we have traversed from Monasterevan. It was built about the year 1264, by the Anglo-Norman family of De Vesci, and is in the usual style of military architecture adopted by the adventurers of that race in the island. This castle was amazingly strong, as intended to protect the pale on the north and north-west; but was repeatedly taken by the O'Dempseys, O'Mores, and O'Connors of Irish history; and finally dismantled, during Cromwell's Protectorate, by blowing it up with gunpowder, in the year 1650. To the castle appertained a court-baron, held within its walls; and a burgh or town in which fairs or markets were held, but which, with its church and ring of bells, were destroyed by Bruce in 1315. The houses and church were rebuilt, but the bells were never restored. In 1642, the town was taken by the rebels, but they were again driven out by Lord Lisle: in memory of which, the inhabitants planted an ash-tree in the market-place, which has grown to a vast size, its girth being 29 feet: but one of its principal arms having been broken off in a storm a few years back, the weather has since injured it so much that the tree is rapidly decaying. The place, now called *Old Lea*, has dwindled into a petty village, containing only a few scattered cabins; but a *patron* is still held every Whit-Monday round the antique tree, where a number of tents are pitched, and replenished with all things accounted necessary to the entertainment of the peasantry of both sexes, who resort thither in great numbers, to join in the dance, and other rural amusements.

GESHILL, a village yet more to the right, gives title of baron to the family of Digby, and has the ruins of a *Castle*.

The little village of **BALLYBRITTAS**, the next occurring on our route, is pleasantly situated, and in a reputable neighbourhood. The Irish compound from which its name is derived, signifies "the Brehon's land;" and it is therefore probable that those officers administered justice in old times upon its *Rath*.

There is a road to the left from this village, which, at the distance of half a mile, leads in sight of *Bellgrove*, the beautiful seat of the Dean of Kildare. The house and offices are newly built, and in an excellent style; the views, both at hand and remote, extremely pleasing; and the lawn tastefully laid out, and improved by a piece of water, &c. The demesne comprehends above 40 acres of woodland.

At a greater distance on the right, as we proceed, is *Emo Park*, the noble mansion, and beautiful demesne, of the Dawson family, represented by the Earl of Portarlington.

Of *Emo Inn*, a single house upon the road which we next reach, Sir Richard Hoare remarks, that it is "a good inn, and well supplied with post horses: though I think I may apply to it, what was once said to a Cistercian monk, 'Albior exterius quam interius.'" Near is *Dawson's Court*, a handsome mansion of the Earl of Portarlington.

Just before reaching Maryborough, a road branches to the right to **MOUNT MELLICK**, a tolerably-sized market town on the Barrow, much inhabited by the people called Quakers. The cotton and woollen manufactories here furnish employment for a great number of persons, and occupy at this present moment 600 looms, though the number was formerly greater: there is also a manufactory of bridle-links and stirrup-irons. A fact deserving to be recorded is, that there are in this town

not less than five breweries, each furnishing an article so uncommon in Leinster, good beer; while there is not a single spirit-distillery. The church is a chapel of ease to that of Rosenallis, an adjacent village to which another sacred edifice recently erected at Clonaslee is ecclesiastically subjected. These form the Protestant places of worship for four parishes united under the name of Rosenallis: and the district so called, which extends from Mount Mellick to the boundary of Queen's County formed by the Slieubloom mountains, may, as an *union*, (the common local denomination) be here described.

ROSENALLIS, thus considered, is a tract of country comprehending nearly 30,600 acres Irish, of which about one half are arable, meadow, and pasture land, and the remainder bog and mountain. The hills, many of which occur, are all arable; and the first of the Slieubloom ridges presents to view, almost to its very summit, fields and gardens in a high state of cultivation, intermixed with hamlets. It is singular that it is the northern side of the Slieubloom that is thus fertile; while the southern is nearly barren, and mostly covered with heath. The long extent of bog affords good fuel, and is so useful in that respect that all attempts to reclaim it would probably be looked upon with an unfavourable eye. Though there is now scarcely a tree to be seen, yet it is well known that this whole district was once a continuous forest of oak and yew; and an English commander received the thanks of Queen Elizabeth for conducting a party of cavalry in safety through the woods of *Oregan*, as Rosenallis is still sometimes called. An additional proof of this is, that the bottom of one of the little loughs occurring here, called Lake Anna, is nearly covered with oak and yew, lying horizontally, with many roots and stumps yet adhering to the soil. A lesser lake, called Lough Duff, chiefly formed by the influx of the Barrow, which rises in the mountains of

Slieubloom, was formerly of pretty considerable extent; but the river has brought down such a quantity of sand into it as has converted it in great measure into pasture ground. The mountains abound in granite slabs, which, when they have been exposed to the air, become so hard as to take a good polish, and are not only much used for flagging halls, cellars, &c. but are worked up into very neat chimney-pieces, which are sold even in distant parts of the country.

Several seats of resident gentlemen are scattered over this district; among which, *Brittas*, the residence of General Dunne, (to whom the neat village of Clonaslee is indebted for its church) is that perhaps most deserving notice. It is a neat lodge, with a large well-wooded demesne, situated on the northern side of Slieubloom, from which it has an extensive and pleasing prospect. *Cappard*, a much larger mansion, standing in a greatly improved demesne, is boldly placed on the eastern side of the same mountain, and the property of a gentleman who now resides in England. *Ballyfin*, is also well-planted: it stands in an adjacent parish, near the opposite bank of the river Ownass, and is the residence of Sir Charles Coote.

Among the antiquities may be enumerated *Castlecuffe*, now an extensive ruin, which was built by the celebrated ancestor of the last mentioned gentlemen, about the year 1641. It appears to have been a plain but strong building, and was called after the first wife of the founder, whose maiden name was Cuffe. Near Clonaslee are other ruins of Castles, built by members of the Dunne family; as was *Castlebrack*, the remains of which are worthy the notice of the antiquary; and *Tinnehinch*, which, as their primeval seat, and from which they took their title of Baron Tinnehinch, has been called the "cradle" of the same race.

Ruins of monastic houses are to be found in each of the four parishes which compose the union. *Kilman-*

man, the western limit of the county, still shews the remnant of an old church so called, in English signifying either the church or burial-place of Manman, who is said to have reared the edifice in the seventh century. He also built the monastery of *Lahoil*, whose remains are seen about two miles from Kilmanman. At *Killyshane*, half a mile S. E., was a religious house for women: their burial-ground was discovered in 1768 by the labourers of General Dunne, and several monumental stones of great antiquity dug up. *Reary Church*, in ruins, stands about a mile north of Tinnehinch; and *Rosenallis* village has the remains of another, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, whose patron is still observed by the inhabitants on the first of February. *Forts*, and *Moats*, esteemed Danish, are observed in various parts: and near *Lahoil*, before mentioned, is a barrow, called the *Giant's Grave*, which a peasant, named Purcell, is said to have explored about a century ago, and to have found in it a spur of solid gold, and of rude and antique workmanship. And, connected with the ruins of *Rosenallis*, is a *Round Tower*, traditionally said to have been built by Rossa Failgea, eldest son of Cathaoir More (Charles the Great) monarch of Ireland in the second century.*

* Statistical Account of *Rosenallis*. The author of which (the Rev. John Baldwin) says, in speaking of the Round Tower: "It is quite evident, from sundry authentic records, that these round towers were appropriated to the preservation of the *Baal-Thinne*, or sacred fire of Baal: first at the solemn convention of Tara, in the year of Christ 79, in the reign of Tuathal Teachtmar, it was enacted that, on the 31st of October, annually, the sacred fire should be publicly exhibited from the top of the stately tower of Flachtga in Munster, from whence all the other repositories of the *Baal-Thinne* were to be rekindled, in case they were, by any accident, allowed to go out: it was also enacted, that a particular tower should be erected for that purpose in each of the other four provinces, Meath being then a distinct province. For this purpose, the tax called *Scraball*, of three-pence per head on all adults, was imposed. Secondly, when this idolatrous worship had been prohibited by the preaching of St. Patrick, Lughaid, son of Laogaire, then monarch, was killed by

It may be interesting also to notice here *St. Finian's Well*, consisting of three or four holes in a solid rock, always full of water, at which the parishioners of Rearymore annually assemble, to celebrate the festival of their patron saint; which is surrounded by old hawthorns, religiously preserved; and around which it is customary for the people to do penance on their bare knees by way of mortification for past sins.—A curious fact is related as to the bogs; that large quantities of trees, deal, oak, and yew, are still raised from them, and from a depth beneath the surface which proves them to have lain there for a very long time. Stumps of deal trees, in somewhat regular rows, adhering to the gravel, have also been found in a bog, after 14 spit of turf had been cut away: and at the same depth, a cake of cylindrical form, having the appearance of fat, was once met with; but it was found on trial that the original fatty matter had been totally absorbed.

BALLIBOY, and FRANKFORD, both on the Silver River, and arrived at by pursuing, the road nearly westwardly, from Mount Mellick, are inconsiderable places: but at the latter is a *Charter-School*, founded by James Frank, Esq. which was opened in 1753, and contains upwards of 40 children. Nothing farther of interest occurs in this direction, if we except the pretty large town of BANAGHER, situate upon the Shannon, over which it has two bridges into Connaught. This place is tolerably built, and has a

lightning, and his death was deemed a punishment from heaven for his impiety in preserving the Baal-Thinne, in direct opposition to St. Patrick's preaching. Thirdly, the venerable Bede, in the life of St. Cuthbert, who died A. D. 687, says, that receptacles for the sacred fire were frequent in the island, and the only part of heathen idolatry that then remained."—How well these testimonies will agree with the opinion that *some* of the yet existing round towers were erections of heathen times, need not be remarked: but it were equally needless to repeat our own assurance that a much later date must be assigned to the generality of them.

Barrack for two companies of foot. It is governed by a Sovereign. Charles I. provided for a *Free School* to be kept here, by endowing it with 285 acres of land, situate in the barony of Eglisk, between four and eight miles from the town: but there is not, nor has there been at any time that can be discovered, any school-house belonging to the endowment, nor does it appear that any school has been kept at Banagher for several years. The *Master*, however, enjoys the annual rent of the lands; which, in 1799, were let for £165 13s. 0d. By a survey made in 1806, it farther appears that 77 acres of the original grant have been lost through the encroachments of the neighbouring landholders, and the negligence of former masters.

MARYBOROUGH, on the Barrow, is so called from Mary Tudor, Queen of England, who first reduced this part of the country to *shire-ground*. It is the assize-town of the county. The magistrates are a Burgo-master, two Bailiffs, and a Town-clerk.

Of the *Fort* of Maryborough, but a small fragment remains, though the works here were originally very strong, and furnished with a numerous garrison, to keep the country in subjection to the English. "An act of the 3rd and 4th Philip and Mary recites, that the countries of Leix, Slewmargin, Offaley, Irry, and Glenmalire, belong of right to their Majesties; but were of late wholly possessed by the O'Mores, O'Connors, O'Dempseys, and other rebels; but, by the industrious travail of the Earl of Sussex, Lord Deputy, were reduced to obedience, and their lands to the disposal of their Majesties, in such manner, and in such proportions, as by him shall be thought proper. That, for the better conserving and keeping those parts in civil government, it is enacted that the new fort in Leix be called *Maryborough*; and that Leix, Slewmargin, Irry, and such portion of Glenmalire as is situated on that side of the Barrow, whereon Maryborough stands, be called and known as the

Queen's County."* In 1648, the fortress was in the possession of the confederate Catholics; but was retaken the following year by Audley, Earl of Castlehaven; and, in 1650, the Parliamentary forces, under Colonels Reynolds and Hewson, effected the destruction of every part, the solitary ruin still standing excepted.

Four miles east of Maryborough, on the summit of a rock, stands the *Castle of Dunamase*, of whose former appearance and strength we may form a tolerable judgment by the existing remains. The rock itself, (to use the language of the 'Survey of Queen's County') "is certainly a place of great curiosity, which nature and art had combined to render of the most formidable strength, before the use of artillery was known. It is one of those hills, which so peculiarly stand separate from the neighbouring chain; and, being extremely steep, was naturally inaccessible on all sides but the south-west, where was the entrance." This entrance was through a barbican, or watch-tower, communicating by a draw-bridge over the ditch with the buildings in its rear. The gate-way here, which was defended by a machicolation at top, is seven feet wide: the walls are six feet thick. The ditch surrounded just so much of the hill as was accessible. The outward ballium of the castle itself was flanked with towers; and other walls intervened before arriving at the keep, or strong-hold, of the building, which occupies the apex of the rock. Contiguous to this last was a dwelling, 72 feet long, and 21 wide; on which were platforms and embattled parapets, from whence the garrison might see and command the exterior works. Dunamase in the original Irish signified *the Fort of the Plain*; and the plain alluded to is the great heath, or height of Maryborough, which lies to the north-east of the rock, and, being a flat of considerable extent, was the commonage belonging

* Grose's Antiquities, II. 45.

to the fort after it became a manor. On this insulated rock was the principal residence of Dermod Mac Morogh, King of Leinster, at whose solicitation it was that the English settlers arrived in Ireland.

The history of this Castle is thus given in Grose's *Antiquities*.—" *Dunamase* was the ancient property of the O'Mores of Leix, as it is now of Sir John Parnel, Bart. It came, with the rest of Leinster, to the Earl of Pembroke, who married the daughter of the last king of that province: (afterwards) to William de Braos, or Bruce, Lord of Brecknock, who married one of the daughters of the last Earl of Pembroke; and he it was who, about 1250, built the castle, and erected it into a manor. The spot chosen was an ancient *dun*, or insulated rock, which formerly had been a strong-hold of the Irish; nor was any place better adapted for a military fortress. In 1264, Maurice Fitz-Gerald seized the persons of the Lord Justice and others, and divided the prisoners between Lea and Dunamase. Davis calls the last the principal house of Lord Mortimer in Leix. About the end of Edward II's reign, Lysagh O'More, (an Irish chieftain) being intrusted by Lord Mortimer, who had married Lord Brecknock's only daughter, with the care and protection of his estate, assumed independence, took eight castles in one evening, destroyed Dunamase, and recovered the whole country. O'More was subdued; but, in 1346, he again threw off all subjection; when Lord Walter Birmingham, and the Earl of Kildare, collecting their forces, destroyed his country with fire and sword; and obliged him to acknowledge, at Athy, that he held his manor of Bellet, and his other lands in Leix, of Roger Mortimer, as of his manor of Dunamase. For more than two centuries afterwards, this fortress was a bone of contention between the Irish and English. In 1642, the rebels secured it; but the Earl of Ormond soon after recovered it. In 1646, Owen Roe O'Neil took it; but it surrendered in 1650

to Colonels Hewson and Reynolds, who completely dismantled it.—Sir John Parnel has very much improved the aspect of the rock by clothing it with trees, and on the eastern side has built a banqueting room.”—Dunamase is considered by Sir Richard Hoare to be the *Dunum* of Ptolemy; and the learned Baronet advances a cogent argument in favour of this opinion.

About a mile and half north of Dunamase stands *Shean Castle*, situated on one of those high conical hills common in this vicinity. It is not remarkable for magnitude, but the nature of the site must have invested it with considerable strength. It is considered, in Grose, “to have been the head of a small manor dependent on Dunamase. By a record of the year 1397 it was then a manor; for at that time Sir Robert Preston held, by the law of England, the inheritance of Margaret his late wife, the manor of Sion (Shean,) of Roger Mortimer.” It has generally shared the fate of the fortresses of Maryborough, Dunamase, &c.; having been seized by the insurgents in 1641; conquered from them the following year by Sir Charles Coote; taken by Owen Roe O’Neil in 1646; and surrendered to Colonels Hewson and Reynolds, (who demolished the outworks, and left nothing but the present building standing) in 1650.

MORETT CASTLE, about five miles east of Maryborough, near the high road leading from Dublin, is described as “one of those *castellated houses*, which, in rude and perturbed times, were necessary for security from danger. It is on a small rising ground, with a stack of chimnies on each side wall and gable end. What the internal arrangement of the rooms was, cannot be conjectured, as no remains of them exist. A turret, supported by consoles, is at one angle. About 200 yards to the south, is a small building, perhaps a chapel: between this and the castle a rivulet runs through the valley.—The Earls of Kildare were formerly the scourges of the O’Mores of Leix, who for

centuries harassed the English pale. The latter lost most of their possessions, and among others this of Morett. In 1585, we find that the Earl of Kildare left his natural son, Gerald Fitz-Gerald, the lands of Tymoge, Morett, and others, containing 2745 acres: these remained in his family till they were forfeited in 1641. However, in February, 1660, they were granted to Robert Fitz-Gerald, Esq. grandfather of James, Duke of Leinster,—and they are now the property of one of that name.”

To the left of the Durrow road from Maryborough, is seen the well-wooded seat of the *Parnell* family; with ornamented pleasure grounds, in which is a *rotundo*, with a balustrade at top, making a conspicuous figure, but of which Sir R. Hoare pronounces the architecture to be ‘bad,’ and the ‘columns too slender.’

Another road running westward from Maryborough, leads through Montrath and Burros-in Ossory to the borders of Queen’s County and of the province. The former may be noticed only for its giving title of Earl to the family of Coote.

BURROS-IN OSSORY is a tolerably-sized town, consisting of a single long street, containing a population of about 500 souls, who are supported by shop-keeping, by inns for travellers, and by the trades of weaving, shoe-making, &c. There are besides 14 houses in this place, and the parish in which it is situated, wherein spirits are retailed; but were the excise officers more vigilant, this number would soon be diminished, for the people in general are sober and industrious, and a more wholesome and nutritious beverage would then succeed to the liquid poison in which they now indulge.

The parish in which this town, with several little collections of cabins called villages, are situated, is called AGHABOE; and of the general district a very interesting account appears in the “Statistical Account,” to the merits of which we are in justice more

particularly bound to bear our sincere testimony, it having been written for that work by Dr. Ledwich, as the parochial incumbent. We shall, in all due gratitude, avail ourselves of much of the valuable information it contains; since, as the results of many years observation on the spot, it cannot but be infinitely superior to any thing we should be able to extract from a visit necessarily temporary.

The situation of this district is in a very rich valley, between the mountains of Cullahill, which run nearly east and west for 16 miles from beyond Durrow in Kilkenny to Killenaul in Tipperary, and the Sliebloom mountains, which divide the King's from the Queen's County. The land gently undulates from east to west, with a few inconsiderable swellings; but bogs and moors occupy a pretty extensive portion of Aghaboe. From the names, of Irish origin, yet given to the different inferior denominations, the veracity of the most ancient topographer of Ireland may be inferred, when he tells us that, in 1185, the country was overrun with woods and marshes: and if his account is compared with that given in the Down Survey in 1655, it will be seen how little was effected in changing the face of the island in the space of 470 years. The beds of rivers were still filled with mud, fallen trees, and aquatic vegetables: springs were not carried off by drains, and the whole country nearly was even as yet either a forest or a fen—features which it retained in a great measure till the revolution; since when, it must be universally allowed, improvement has made most rapid advances.

The paucity of modern buildings deserving of mention is sufficiently accounted for by the fact, that not one landed proprietor resides in Aghaboe: neither indeed is there a house which a man of any very considerable property would inhabit. But there are several plain, comfortable, and snug private and farm-houses. “After a long incumbency,” observes Dr. L.

“ I can, with strict truth, declare, that the parishioners of Aghaboe, according to their different ranks, are as *well disposed* and as *civilized* as any other portion of his Majesty's subjects.”

The Doctor elsewhere remarks, that “ good laws, security of property, and employment, will raise a people from a degraded state to a high rank in civilized society.” For what then must the governors of Ireland be responsible, who for so many centuries after the Norman invasion withheld these blessings from the people they swayed ! “ The genius and dispositions of the Irish, “ he goes on to observe, “ are excellent, capable of every mental and corporeal exertion, when, for the latter, proper objects are presented, and when cultivation improves and extends the former.” Again: how obvious then is it that the unimproved state of the Irish, compared with the other subjects of the empire, up to the present day, must be ascribed to some strong deteriorating and degrading cause, by which those mental and corporeal capabilities have been quenched or paralysed !

“ The parishioners of Aghaboe, continues Dr. L., “ all speak English, few of them Irish; many do not understand a word of the latter.—The old customs, mentioned by Spencer and other early writers, no longer exist: some they still retain, which though not strictly statistical, may yet be amusing to mention. If you ask a female peasant her name, though married, she will give her maiden name, and by that she is called and known. This is a Welsh practice, and is mentioned by Pennant, who adds, that in Wales children are called after their mother. If a women of superior rank married a man her inferior, she never took his name; and in France, children were ennobled by their mothers. In Greece, wherever there was a promiscuous connection, the offspring bore their mother's name. Let philosophers explain the reason of this, and its univeral pre-

valence.—The native peasants have constantly straw or hay in their brogues.

By the 28th Henry VIII., every parish minister is sworn, on his admission, to keep an English school-master. There is in Aghaboe a Protestant master. There are likewise five Roman-catholic masters; these are attended by 40 or 50 children, the number varying with the season. They are taught reading, writing, and figures, at low rates. Few, unless the very poorest, but *wish* to give their children some instruction. There is little idleness among young people; the males are employed, when not in school, in agricultural business, and the females in spinning.

The following opinions of the same writer, relative to tithes, may not be unacceptable. The facts mentioned are certainly highly honourable to their author, as they respect him personally; and whatever may be thought of the sentiments in general upon this subject, the justice of that condemning the exemption of grazing lands cannot be questioned.—“Tithes (in Aghaboe) are very moderate. The charge for wheat, bere, barley, and potatoes, is 10s. the acre: for rape, oats, and meadow, 6s.; and for sheep and lambs, 10s. the score. These prices are asked, but never paid. I speak from an uninterrupted residence of many years, but I never received more than two parts out of three of my valuation, nor did I ever take tithe in kind, nor ever had a suit in either the Consistory or Exchequer. From an exact return* of the clerical income of eight dioceses, it appears, that the average revenue of the parochial clergy did not exceed £148 per annum; which if not inferior, was certainly not superior, to that of the Scottish, Dutch, or other Lutheran and Calvinistic clergy. Let, therefore, legislators or any other rational man determine, whether the rates and payment of tithes, as

* Dr. Woodward (late Bishop of Cloyne)'s *Present State of the Church of Ireland*, pp. 42. 43.

before stated, are a fair and just ground for outcry and insurrection. Young recommends a perpetual recompence in lieu of tithes: he had before said, that tithes in Ireland were not unreasonably rated. When he mentioned recompence or commutation, he was not aware of the many obstacles to the execution of such a scheme. Many there are, but one I experimentally know. On obtaining the vicarage of Aghaboe, I proposed to the parishioners to accept 1s. an acre in lieu of tithes: this, though it would have lessened my income, I flattered myself would have been compensated by the respect and regard of the people which always attend harmony among the parties. The small and middling farmers were disposed to agree, but the more opulent, who had considerable tracts under dry cattle, and who were protected from agistment by an iniquitous vote of the (Irish) House of Commons, declined my offers.—Whatever deprives people of their just and legal rights, merits no gentle epithet.”

For introducing some other observations of the Reverend Doctor, (whose strong sense and learning need neither to be pointed out nor praised) relative to this district, we shall not think it necessary to attempt an apology.

“ There is in this parish but one farm of 300 acres; the rest diminish until they come to 15 and 10 acres. This subdivision contributes greatly to the increase of population; but is attended with another sure consequence, a bad system of agriculture, from the poverty of the farmer, and his inability to cultivate the ground to the best advantage. The first thing a tenant does with us, on taking a small farm, is, to plough up the ley, and prepare it for burning; in this he plants potatoes: the broken land, if any, he fallows, or sows oats, and on the common pasture he grazes a horse or two, and as many cows. His utmost exertion will not make more than half a year's rent: so that he must either

recur to his miserable stock, or to those who may have taken some of his baiting ground, by anticipation. The next year he has potatoes enough for his family, and baiting to spare; he prepares the fallows, makes some butter, and sells a pig or two: these, with unceasing industry, and the natural fertility of the soil, and selling every thing except milk and potatoes, put him imperceptibly, in a few years, in possession of some money: and yet he will not venture on experiments, procure better implements, or deviate in the least from his old system. Middling and small farmers begin with *burning* the ley: this has been prohibited, by different statutes, under heavy penalties.—The legislature, instead of prohibiting, should have regulated the practice. The law, as it stands at present, is a dangerous instrument of tyranny in the hands of a peevish, resentful, or avaricious landlord: for, as a magistrate of long experience in this business, I can truly say I never knew a prosecution carried on from laudable motives. A poor labourer, with a cabin full of children, is commonly the victim of legal oppression! Let, therefore, the spirit of Christianity, and our immense population, prevail on our enlightened legislature to modify statutes, injudicious in their principle, and very injurious in their consequences.—I have dwelt the longer on this subject, not only as it intimately concerns the parish of Aghaboe, but those that surround it.”

Speaking on the common practice of *dibbling* potatoes, and neither affording them room for vegetation, nor for increase in size, the author observes that “it is a fact, that the poor never have *large* potatoes:” and goes on to remark:—“How superior *drilling* would be, I can speak from my own knowledge. I have had nine acres drilled one year, the crop great and large.—Would it not be generous and humane for landlords to drill their tenants’ gardens? It would be to them but the loss of one day, and the advantage to a poor family would be great

indeed: the low price of labour demands such an indulgence.

In the sixth century, St. Canice fixed his residence in Aghaboe; there, under his superintendence, letters and religious discipline were cultivated. The fame of his learning and sanctity attracted numbers; and, from a wilderness, a town arose. On their conversion to Christianity, the kings and princes of Ireland erected many churches, and amply endowed them. The princes of Ossory were, in an eminent degree, bountiful to the clergy; and hence they acquired the name of Mac-giolla-Phadruig, the son or servant of St. Patrick. Walsh and Keating give instances of the conspicuous piety of Scanlan and Donogh, kings of Ossory in the tenth century; and Lynch, in his *Cambrensis*, observes, that our national writers pay particular attention to this race of princes, by passing over others in silence, while they give a catalogue of the kings of Ossory. Aghaboe was by them made a mother church; and from the death of St. Canice, in 598, to the removal of the see to Kilkenny, Aghaboe continued, for above 600 years, the cathedral of Ossory.

It was in the year 1152, that Cardinal Paparo was sent by the Pope as Legate into Ireland, to arrange ecclesiastical affairs, and make them more productive to the See of Rome. The object of his mission was, among other things, to direct, that, on the death of a Chorepiscopus, or village Bishop, or Bishops who possessed small sees in Ireland, Archipresbyters, or rural Deans, should be appointed by the Diocesans to succeed them, who should superintend the clergy and laity in their respective districts, and that each of their sees should be erected into a rural deanery.—Now, it appears from Bishop Otway's *Visitation-book*,* that Aghaboe was a rural deanery; and (therefore) if there was no other evidence, was an ancient Bishop's see.

* A valuable MS. in the episcopal palace, Kilkenny.

On the arrival of the English, in 1169, the Irish were doomed to a new domination, and to a complete change in church and state. Donchad, Prince of Ossory, submitted to Henry II.; and, in the council of Cashel, in 1172, it was decreed the Irish church should assimilate in all points with the English: Paparo's regulations were enforced; and Felix O'Dullany, who died in 1202, was obliged to consent to the removal of his see from Aghaboe to Kilkenny: he was immediately succeeded by Hugh Rufus, an English Augustinian canon: the chorepiscopal sees were changed into rural deaneries, and every other alteration was judiciously planned, and, as far as circumstances allowed, carried into execution, for the advancement of the English interest. Aghaboe was still of some importance; for Henry II. gave half the town of Aghaboe, and half the cantred in which it was situated to Adam de Hereford; and to John de Clahull, the Marshalsea of Leinster, and the lands lying between Aghaboe and Leighlin. It appears from the life of Geffrey St. Leger, that he expended large sums in repairing and beautifying the episcopal palace of Aghaboe. This was between the years 1260 and 1286. Archdall informs us that the great church was built in 1234: this was probably the present *Parish Church*, whose architecture bears some traces of this age. It appears to be the chancel of this church, for there is no west window; but a Gothic arch of red grit, now filled up, clearly marks a chancel, as the foundations of walls do the continuation of the edifice. The belfry is a small hexagonal structure, closed with a cap of masonry, and is on a line with the roof of the church. Round the fabric are buttresses, except to the south: on that side is a door; the arches are concentric, enriched with carving and foliage. There are three windows: the eastern one is divided by stone mullions, and branched out into trefoils. Within, the northern wall is adorned with niches, canopies, and concentric mould-

ings; and near the communion-table is a curious confession-box in the thickness of the wall. There are no sepulchral monuments, within or without the church, deserving notice.

The *Dominican Abbey* was founded, according to Mr. Archdall, in 1152; but others date it in 1382, by the Fitzpatricks. It stands but a few yards from the parish church; is 100 feet long, by 24 wide; and has five pointed windows, three to the south, with east and west ones. That to the east is ramified: the western door has concentric arches: the walls of the abbey are not ornamented. There is a small tabernacle for sacred utensils; and on the south side is a projecting building, called Phelan's Chapel, connected with the abbey by an arch. On the east side, above the altar, is a pedestal, on which stood the statue of St. Canice. There are two tabernacles, and also an inverted cone for holding holy-water. On the north side of the abbey was a quadrangle, 60 feet square: in it were the monks' cells, in number 10, with servants' apartments and necessary offices. The cellars were spacious; and over them were the Prior's room, 46 by 17 feet, and a large dormitory. The predecessor of the Reverend Doctor in the living of Aghaboe, who had the fee of the land, and the advowson, demolished most of this venerable pile to enclose a demesne. In the perpetual contests between neighbouring toparchs, the abbey was frequently plundered and burnt; and in 1346, Dermot Mac Giolla Phadruig burnt the town, the shrine, and reliques of St. Canice.

To the north of the church is an artificial *Mount*, in the form of a truncated cone: it was raised from the earth of the surrounding fosse. It is about 45 feet diameter at top, and a stone wall ran round the summit. The ascent to it was by an undulating path-way. It is similar to the Welsh *Gorsedde*, from whence justice was administered: it might also serve as some protection to

the abbey, which suffered frequently in turbulent and barbarous ages. At some distance from Aghaboe, but still in the parish, is the *Rath of Lara*, otherwise called the *Moat of Monacoghlan*. It is on a high hill, equivalent to *Lier* in Irish. Moat is from the Icelandic *Mot*, a place of meeting which was always on elevated spots. Rath and Moat are of the same import: the former being used by the Irish, the latter by the Anglo-Saxons.

Nothing of particular interest occurs in that angle of the King's County to the north and north-west of Burros-in Ossory: BIRR is the only town; but this is large, new, and well-built. It is situate upon the Little Brosna River. The streets are straight: the principal of them is terminated by *Duke's Square*, so called from a statue of the Duke of Cumberland, by Cheere, erected on a lofty, handsome column, which however is placed disadvantageously, within a circular inclosure, moated by a stream of water. The castellated mansion of the Parsons family, erected (as Sir R. Hoare was informed, from a design by the architect Johnson) stands at the other end of the town.

At the foot of the mountains which separate the King and Queen's Counties, and near the high road to Roscrea (in Tipperary) stands *Ballaghmore Castle*, built by the Fitz-Patricks, anciently princes of Ossory. The remains of this edifice possess no features calculated to render their description of importance. History relates that, in 1647, a Captain Hedges, who was in garrison at Burros-in Ossory, attacked Ballaghmore, which, after a stout resistance, surrendered: when he blew up some part of the building, and filled the intrenchments: but that, as he was returning at evening with his prisoners and booty, he was intercepted by a party of Irish, who fell furiously upon him, rescued their companions, and slew many of his men, while the remainder with difficulty regained Burros. The castle stands on the estate of the Earl of Montrath, whose ancestors, having borne

a conspicuous part in the intestine wars of a former period, were rewarded with the present large possessions of the family in Queen's County.

To the left of the Ballynakill road is the village of TIMAHOE, where a monastery was founded towards the end of the fifth century by St. Mochoe, a few remains of which were to be seen when Archdall wrote. The spot is now visited for its *Round Tower* and *Castle*. The former differs little from structures of the same kind in general: it had seven stories and rests for floors; is 33 feet high, 53 in circumference, the walls four feet four inches thick, and the door-way 14 feet from the ground. Round the latter is observed the chevron or zigzag moulding; which may either prove, that this tower is of an age greatly posterior to several others now standing, or that this species of ornament was in use at a period considerably earlier than is generally supposed, or that the moulding itself is an addition to the original fabric: considering the great height of the door-way from the ground, which seems to point to an era of building when *defence* was a main object with the architect, the latter supposition appears upon the whole the most probable.

The *Castle* is said to have been "erected by the Cosby family about the reign of Elizabeth. The only thing remarkable concerning it was an action here in the year 1642. Colonel Monk had, with 600 foot, and two troops of horse, relieved Ballynakill: as he was marching back, he met General Preston with 3,000 men. The latter came up with Monk at Timahoe; the numbers were very unequal, but a retreat was dishonourable. Monk intrenched himself, so as to fear no attack but in front, and resolved to receive them bravely, and that his musketeers should not spend their shot in vain. The enemy advanced, but were saluted with such a shower of bullets as killed the boldest and made the rest give way: this Monk perceiving, he pressed boldly on

them, but their terror so winged their flight that they were soon out of his reach: about 60 of them fell.”*

Beyond Ballyroan, we pass through a village where neatness and symmetry seem to have been studied in the arrangement of the cottages, all the windows having a square label over them. On the right is soon seen a long range of wood and rich country, to which the bogs on the left make a far from pleasing contrast.

BALLYNAKILL is a small post-town, forty-eight miles and a half S. W. from Dublin. Here are the ruins of a Castle which, after a brave resistance, was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell.

DURROW, three miles and a half farther west, is pleasantly situated on the banks of a small river, called the Erkin: it has a good inn, which supplies post chaises and horses. Though locally in the barony of Upper Ossory, Queen's County, Durrow is considered a part of the county of Kilkenny: for which the following reason is historically given. On its coming into the possession of the Butler family, who were perpetually harassed by the powerful sept of the Fitzpatricks, the Earl of Ormond procured an act of parliament to make this estate part and parcel of Kilkenny: and the offending Fitzpatricks being taken, were transmitted immediately thither to suffer, remote from their connections, the penalty of the law. Here according to Archdall, was formerly a monastery; but of which very little is now known. *Castle Durrow*, adjoining the town, is a large, old-fashioned mansion, belonging to Viscount Ashbrooke. *Water Castle*, between this place and Ballyroan, is prettily situated by the rapid stream of the Nore, in a well-wooded valley: the mansion seems to have been formed out of one of the old square castles. Nearer Durrow is *Dunmore*, the demesne of the Staples family.

Grantstown Castle, and *Aghamacart Abbey*, lie a few

* Grose, Vol. II. p. 12.

miles westward of Durrow, and may here be described.

The former is a large round tower, erected at the foot of a hill, and looking upon a spacious lake beneath, the whole in a well-wooded demesne belonging to the Latouche family. It has nothing of the slender pyramidal form of the national round towers, being a building of a diameter not very greatly inferior to its height; but, from the opposite side of the lake, it makes a picturesque appearance. It is battlemented and turreted, and the walls are of considerable thickness. As there are no vestiges of buildings with which it might appear to have been formerly connected, it is conjectured to have been one of the *Nidi*, or Norwegian round towers, mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis; and thus, like Reginald's Tower, at Waterford, ascribed with every appearance of justice to the Danes, it affords, upon this supposition, another evidence that the true Irish round towers were no productions of either of those kindred races; since, whenever the northern rovers affected the rotund form in buildings known to be of their erection, they differed in every possible respect, except in simple rotundity, with the national structures.

AGHAMACART is four miles and a half S. W. from Durrow. The original priory here was founded about the year 550; which became the burial-place of the Fitzpatricks, the before-mentioned princes of Ossory. The powerful family so named were lords of this territory long prior to the arrival of the English. They are said to have soon laid aside their rude manners, and to have become highly civilized, and attached to the British government; at the same time that they frequently engaged in the petty feuds not wholly suppressed till the reign of James, and never forgot their ancient independent spirit.* In 1575, Lord Deputy Sidney, in his state

* A remarkable proof of this occurred in the reign of Henry VIII. Peter Butler had spoiled the country of the Fitzpatricks: upon

papers, praises the value and wisdom of the *Baron* of Upper Ossory; and tells the lords of the council, that no country could be better governed or defended. One of his defensive measures was the erection of a *Castle* at Aghamacart; the grant of the Benedictine *Abbey* there, and its appurtenances, with other religious foundations and their estates, having been made to him in 43rd of Elizabeth. But the possessions of these religious establishments were originally parts of the princely property of the Fitzpatricks, having been bestowed upon the church by them; and, as a consequence of this ancient connection of these estates with the family, they still enjoy the right of advowson to Aghamacart, Cahir, Killine, and Coolkerry—an ecclesiastical patrimony of perhaps unrivalled antiquity in the British dominions. The abbey is now entirely in ruins: part of the chapel walls, and a small portion of the belfry only remain; with a well-turned entrance-arch of good workmanship. “The inhabitants of Aghamacart (it is said in Grose) relate, that a brother of the priory, who had not subdued his passions by monastic austerity and maceration, became enamoured of a lovely nun; her tender heart felt his attachment, and repaid it by reciprocal affection. An illicit connection could not long be concealed—time revealed the fatal secret: the friar, to prevent the ignominy which his conduct merited, and, to atone for his crime, precipitated himself from the top of the belfry, and expired. The females, who tell this tale, draw a veil over the fate of the frail sister, and pretend to know nothing of her catastrophe.”

which the chief of the sept dispatched a messenger to the King in England; who, meeting his Majesty as he was going into chapel, delivered to him this brief and pithy speech: “*Sta Pedibus, Domine Rex—Dominus meus Gillapatrius me misit ad te, et jussit dicere, quod si non vis castigare Petrum Rufum, ipse faciet bellum contra te.*”

BEGGAR'S INN, in Kilkenny, seven miles S. W. from Durrow, a now wholly unimportant spot, was formerly distinguished for its priory, called *Fertagh*, some ruins of which remain. The original name is supposed to have been *Fertagh na Geirah*, signifying the burial-place of the anchorites or Culdee monks. Archdall has the following mention of this place:—"A Priory, under the invocation of St. Kieran, was founded here in the thirteenth century, by the family of Blanchfield, for regular canons following the rule of St. Augustin. There still remains here a small ancient chapel, in which is a large raised tomb, with the figure of a man in armour rudely engraven thereon, his hands in a praying posture, and a dog at his feet: by his side was originally the figure of his wife, with an inscription on the cushion which lay under her head; but this part of the tomb, now going into decay, is broken in two pieces, and the inscription rendered illegible by time: this tomb is said to belong to the family of Fitzpatrick. Near to it is another tomb, which appears to be that of a woman, with a singular head-dress, rising up on each side, as Bishop Pocock describes it, in two horns. In the east wall is a small figure of our Saviour, very inelegantly executed: and a few yards west of the chapel, stands a *Round Tower*, much decayed, being cracked quite up from the door, and wanting the top: it is about 48 feet in circumference, and the wall is three feet eight inches thick: the door, which is six feet by two, and 10 from the ground, faces the east: the inside is divided into five stories, at each of which is a resting-place, formed by the wall, sufficient to support a floor, and diminishing upwards: the neighbouring inhabitants say this tower is 112 feet high, but it seems not to exceed 90."—The author of the Statistical Survey of Kilkenny, states the height of this tower to be 96 feet.

The chalybeate *Spa* of *Ballyspellan* is in the parish of *Fertagh*: its properties are given at length in the work

last mentioned. Near the spa are some neat-looking cottages—that “very unusual sight in Ireland.”

At BALLYRAGGET, observe only a handsome *Seat*, surrounded by an extensive demesne. Within a mile of this place is another of the supposed Norwegian *Nidi* of Cambrensis; and there is a third near FRESHFORD, a few miles south-west.

CASTLE COMER, giving title of Viscount to the family of Wandesford, lies a short distance north-east. This place is celebrated for its *Coal-pits*, producing the kind commonly called *Kilkenny Coal*, which, containing no bitumen, but an extraordinary proportion of sulphur, has the singular property of burning without intermitting smoke. But this property is not peculiar to the species; as the stone coal of South Wales resembles it in that respect, and is similar in its general qualities. When once ignited, it burns with intensity and brightness; but, like the stone coal, it requires wood or charcoal to assist its ignition, and is troublesome to light. The larger fragments alone are in use for domestic purposes: the small, like that of Wales, is chiefly in request for burning lime. In houses where this coal is commonly used, it is observed by strangers to fill the air with a sulphureous odour, which has an oppressive influence more than compensating for the absence of smoke. Indeed, sulphuric acid gas is sometimes extricated by its use in such quantities as to become highly dangerous, and even to cause suffocation when it is incautiously burnt in a confined place. Yet, notwithstanding, its superior heat and durability, being as four to three in comparison with the best English coal imported, have given it the preference to all other kinds for manufacturing and culinary purposes; and, by means of the Suir, the Barrow, and the Grand Canal, (the Nore, which flows by Kilkenny, not being navigable until 12 miles below that city) it is forwarded to Dublin and many other places in considerable quanti-

ties.* The Dowager Lady Ormond, who is the chief proprietor of the collieries, has a very pretty house and grounds at Castle Comer; which however suffered very severely in the commotions of 1798, when great part of the town also was destroyed. This seat being on one side of the road, while the major portion of the grounds lies on the opposite, a subterraneous passage of connection is constructed beneath it.

Our route from Ballyragget to KILKENNY runs nearly parallel with the course of the Nore to the latter. DUNMORE, a little to the left, three miles and a half north from Kilkenny, has the ruins of a *Castle* and *Church*: there is also an edifice for sacred worship in the parish in good condition. A *School* upon Dr. Bell's plan, recently instituted by the Ormond family, appears well-managed and flourishing. The somewhat too greatly celebrated *Cave of Dunmore* is in the middle of an open field: the descent into it is steep, and slippery. Numbers of guides are usually at hand to conduct strangers into its recesses: carrying lights before their auditors, they endeavour to impress them with a sense of the beauties of this natural phenomenon; and yet

* How different was the case in the latter respect in 1649, (the mine having been discovered but a few years) may be gathered from Boate, in his description following. "This mine is in the province of Leinster, county of Carlow, seven miles from Idof, in the same hill where the iron mine was of Mr. Christ. Wandesworth. In that iron mine, after that for a great while they had drawn iron ore out of it, and that by degrees they were gone deeper, at last, in lieu of ore they met sea-coal. There be coals enough in this mine to furnish a whole country, nevertheless there be no use made of them further than among the neighbouring inhabitants, because the mine being situated far from rivers, the transportation is too chargeable by land. These coals are very heavy, and burn with little flame, but lie like charcoal, and continue so the space of seven or eight hours, casting a very great and violent heat. In the place where the mine standeth, do lie little smith-coals above the ground, from whence the smiths dwelling in the parts round about did use to come and fetch them, even before the mine was discovered."—*Nat. Hist. ch.* 19. p. 84.

little is to be seen around but a dark grey limestone rock, to observe which it is necessary to be occasionally reckless of the mire which occurs oftener than could be wished at the bottom of the cave. There are, however, some petrifications and stalactic substances to be met with; but the "organ-pipes, cylinders, inverted pyramids, and 10,000 other figures" of the '*Post-Chaise Companion*' we were so unfortunate as to be unable to perceive. The extent of this excavation is its most remarkable feature: it being such, that three English officers, who were quartered a few years back in the neighbourhood, imprudently venturing into it without guides, and their lights becoming accidentally extinguished, were lost in its sinuosities for the space of 24 hours; and were at last extricated from their truly unpleasant situation only in consequence of a search made for them, by some peasants of the vicinity, at the instance of their brother officers, who casually recollected their having mentioned an intention of visiting the cave.

On approaching Kilkenny the tourist is usually struck with two things—the beauty of its situation, and the clearness of the atmosphere floating over it, so unlike that generally attaching to a place of its size. We need scarcely remind the reader, that the latter feature is derived from the exclusive use of the coal just described, by the inhabitants. The city of Kilkenny, and the borough of St. Canice, or Irish-Town, form, according to Dr. Beaufort, one large town, placed centrally in the county of the city of Kilkenny. It was incorporated by James I. in 1609; and is governed by a mayor, deputy, two sheriffs, recorder, and town-clerk: but the liberty of St. Canice is under a distinct government by a portrieve, and possesses particular privileges in virtue of a charter. The city sends one member to parliament, and gives title of earl to the family of Butler, now represented by the Marquis of Ormond,

whose noble castle here we shall presently describe. The houses stand delightfully on ground rising into various eminences from the banks of the Nore; over which there are two handsome bridges, both of black marble taken from the adjacent large quarries, which supply various parts of Ireland, and even London, with this material, so beautiful when in a polished state—but of itself presenting but a sombre appearance in these bridges. The place contains 20,000 inhabitants; who possess a pretty considerable woollen manufacture of cloths and blankets, first established here by Pierce, Earl of Ormond, and his wife the Lady Margaret, who brought manufacturers from Flanders for the purpose: there is also a manufacture of starch; and the peculiar coal and marble found in the vicinity afford the means of occupation and livelihood to numbers.

The inhabitants of this city make their boast that they have fire without smoke, water without mud, and that their streets are paved with marble. For the first, we have already seen its truth; for the second, we can avouch that the water of the Nore is indeed beautifully pellucid: as to the last allegation, it must be observed, that it would be equally true to say, that several of the meanest huts around are built with marble, and that the fences in the environs are made, and the roads mended, with the same in general so costly substance. But it will readily be believed, that only the coarser parts and refuse are applied to purposes, for which stone of any kind is always adopted in the immediate neighbourhood of extensive quarries; and in fact the marble thus applied in Kilkenny has the most ordinary appearance imaginable. Yet the finer slabs, when they leave the polishers' hands, are frequently of very singular beauty, and are deservedly in great request for chimney pieces, &c. Their hue is sometimes equal to the purest jet; but, unfortunately, this intensity of colour is by no means permanent: after a time they become grey, or

exhibit numerous white spots; and indeed the prevailing colour from the first is mottled.

In regard to the history of the place, it is worthy of observation that the borough of St. Canice is one of the oldest towns in the island: by the Irish it is yet called *Bally-gaël-loch*, or the *Gaëls' Town on the Lake*, its site having been formerly a marsh, occasionally so overflowed as to give the appearance of a lake, and still very subject to inundations from the river. This first embryo of a town consisted but of a range of cabins along the margin of the Nore; and such sites were very commonly selected by the ancient inhabitants of the island; for similar was the original situation of Dublin, of Cork, and of Limerick.* From St. Canice, the name of Kilkenny is commonly derived; he was a saint of whom many legends are still current; such as that, in his infancy, he was suckled by a cow; that being afterwards employed as a shepherd-boy, he devoted all his leisure-time to making little churches of wood, or osier twigs, &c. On arriving at manhood, he entered into a monastery, where he continued several years, and afterwards travelled to Rome; at all times and places distinguishing himself by very extraordinary devotion. He was first buried at Aghaboe; but his remains being afterwards transferred to Kilkenny, from thence we have its present appellation, which signifies the burial-place of Canice, or Kenny. In 1348, a terrible pestilence, which commenced its ravages in the east, and had swept off a great number in various countries, appeared in Kilkenny, along with other Irish cities, and with such terrible effects, that not only did scarce a house escape the infection, but, not satisfied with single victims, it in general destroyed husband, wife, children, and servants, in every residence it entered. John Clyn, a Franciscan of this place, gives a

* Such also was the original situation of London.

particular account of it in his annals; which, with a presentiment of his own fate, he himself dying of the infection, he closes with these remarkable words:—“ And, lest the writing should perish with the writer, and the work fail with the workman, I leave behind me parchment for continuing it, if any man should have the good fortune to survive this calamity, or any one of the race of Adam should escape this pestilence, to continue what I have begun.”—During the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, many parliaments were held in Kilkenny. A memorable one was that of 1367, when the old Brehon laws were *enacted* to be abolished, and the English system of jurisprudence established in their stead: on the same occasion, very high penalties were decreed for any Englishman in future wearing the Irish dress.—In 1650, Kilkenny surrendered to Oliver Cromwell.

The existing remains of religious edifices in Kilkenny attest its former ecclesiastical magnificence. One of these structures is still tolerably perfect—the *Cathedral of St. Canice* in the Irish-Town. It is the Cathedral of the see of Ossory: a see founded very early in the fifth century, and first established at *Saigair*, and afterwards at *Aghaboe*: the chapter is formed by a dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer, archdeacon, and seven prebendaries. From the confused and imperfect accounts given of the origin of this cathedral, (as Ledwich's Grose observes) we can only conjecture that Felix O'Dullany, or Delany, began it in 1180, by erecting a small church near the still all but perfect and elegantly tapered *Round Tower*. But Hugh Rufus, who was elevated to this see during the Lord-Justiceship of William, Earl Marshal, just prior to the close of the twelfth century, laid the foundations of a nobler edifice, which was completed by Bishops Mapilton and St. Leger, his successors. The style of architecture agrees with these accounts; St. Leger dying towards the end of

Edward I. when, according to Bentham, the prevailing taste led to an immoderate length of the windows; and those of this church have evidently been shortened, to suit the fashion of a later era.

The building occupies an eminence, approached from the town by a flight of steps of the common black marble: the cemetery is planted, and from its handsome terrace-walk on the west side is obtained a good prospect of the fine surrounding country. The edifice, cathedral-like, is in the form of a cross: the length, from east to west, 226 feet; that from north to south, or of the transept, 123: so that this is perhaps the largest religious structure now standing in the island, with the exception of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and that of Christ-Church, Dublin; and in beauty it certainly surpasses both. There are two lateral aisles, each lighted by four long lower windows, as the nave is by five above; the latter are all quatrefoils. The nave is supported on each side by five neat arches, turning on five pillars and a pilaster, of black marble: these pillars were whitened over about 80 years back by some absurd and ignorant economist. The steeple, which is low, but broad, occupying the space of 37 feet, is supported by four massy columns of black marble; and its floor rests on a great number of springers, which, rising from the columns, spread over the vaulting, and are each divided into small bead-mouldings. The ceiling is besides adorned with fret-work, and has many modillions, and in the centre a group of foliage, festoons, and cherubim. The four entrances are placed, one at the west end, two into the nave opposite each other, and one at the end of the north transept. The seats of the choir and gallery are of varnished oak: the whole plain and uncarved, but remarkably neat.

Both the nave and aisles are ornamented with a number of sepulchral monuments, some of considerable beauty, and most of them of great age. During

Cromwell's protectorate these were heaped together in an oratory in the north transept, near a chapel dedicated to St. Mary: and to the care of that learned prelate and antiquary, Bishop Pocock, posterity are alone indebted for rescuing these monuments from ruin and obscurity, and placing them in their present situations. The church itself had been neglected for a long series of years, and was fast hastening to decay, when this bishop came to the see; but by means of a large subscription raised throughout his diocese, aided by a liberal contribution from his private funds, he was enabled to put it in the respectable state of repair in which it is now seen. There is a monument to this man of singular excellence and worth in the cathedral, executed by Scheemaker; but his remains, it has been seen in a former Excursion, were interred at Ardbraccan in Meath.

In 1318, Bishop Ledred adorned the windows of this cathedral with painted glass of exquisite beauty. The eastern window in particular, which contained the history of Christ from his birth to his ascension, was without a rival in Ireland: and Rinuccini, Archbishop of Fermo, and nuncio from the Pope to the confederate catholics in 1645, was so much struck with this fine production of art, that he offered the then very large sum of £700 for it, intending to transfer it to Rome. But neither the high rank and influence of the nuncio, nor the distresses of the times, could prevail with the bishop and chapter to accept the offer: the window therefore continued to adorn the church for the short space of five years longer; when the republican fanatics of that disastrous period, urged on by Colonel Axtel, then governor of Kilkenny, barbarously effected its demolition.

Of the three other monastic institutions formerly flourishing in Kilkenny, the *Priory of St. John*, for the relief of indigent poor, was the first founded, owing its origin to William Mareschal the elder, Earl of Pem-

broke, early in the thirteenth century. The elegant ruins of this building still remain in St. John Street, on the east side of the town: part of them have been converted into barracks; but an idea is entertained of restoring the edifice, and adapting it to the purposes of a parish-church.—The *Franciscan Friary*, on the banks of the Nore, was founded about the year 1230, by Richard Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke. This building, with its offices, occupied a large extent of ground; and the existing remains (great part of which have become barracks) sufficiently evince its pristine elegance and grandeur. Near the former infirmary of this monastery is a Well, which was dedicated to St. Francis: it was celebrated for many miracles said to have been wrought at it, and it still retains some degree of credit amongst the vulgar.—William Mareschal, junior, Earl of Pembroke, founded the *Dominican* or *Black Abbey*, situated in Irish-Town, in 1225, and dedicated it to the Holy Trinity. In the reign of James the First, it served for a shire-house; and in 1643 was repaired, and a chapter of the order held in it. It has two handsome towers: the architecture of one of them is light and elegant; and some of the windows in the body of the fabric appear to have been executed by a masterly hand. There is an intention of restoring this ruin also, as a parochial church; and it is to be wished that a design calculated to preserve such noble remains to even yet distant ages may not be abandoned.

The *Castle*, the grand seat of the Earl of Ormond, is the principal ornament of the city and of the county. As Kilkenny is approached from the Carlow road, the view of this building, crowning a steep bank of the Nore, with a long line of antique wall along its base, mantled with various kinds of verdure, is picturesque in no common degree. A good view of it is also obtained from the bridge, on entering the city in that direction, but it is a less striking one than the former. On the town


side is the principal entrance, through a lofty gate of marble; but this side of the building presents no other feature worthy of remark; and the gate, being of the Corinthian order, is totally out of harmony with the rest of the edifice.

It was the famous Earl Strongbow, who, on being appointed Lord-Justice of Ireland in 1173, laid the foundation of a castle here, which was soon afterwards destroyed by the Irish. But William, Earl Marshal, descended from Strongbow, and who also was Lord-Justice in 1195, began that more noble pile on the ancient site, great part of which has survived all the subsequent convulsions of this so long distracted kingdom. The area originally enclosed was, and still is, very extensive: on the land side it was defended by strong walls, ramparts, and towers: towards the Nore, the precipitous bank, and the rapid stream, were thought a sufficient defence: within were accommodations not only for the noble possessor and his domestics, but for a numerous garrison. Hugh le Despencer, who obtained the fortress by marriage in September, 1391, conveyed it and its dependencies to James, Earl of Ormond, and from him the present noble family of Ormond inherit.

Though the interior is now arranged and fitted up in a manner both splendid and tasteful, yet the original want of plan and uniformity in the rooms prevents every appearance of the magnificent. The entrance is through a court, approached by the gate before mentioned; and the first room to be noticed is the dining-parlour, in which are many valuable portraits. The Breakfast-room, which is most irregularly shaped, and runs into the principal turret, is hung with well-executed and lively-coloured tapestry, exhibiting the story of Decius: the immense thickness of the walls is here particularly observed, the recess formed by each window being of sufficient dimensions to admit a breakfast-party of six or

eight persons. The alcove, or presence-chamber, is also hung with tapestry, and has a chair of state, raised a step from the floor. The Gallery, 150 feet long, contains a fine collection of battle-pieces and portraits: many of the latter are family ones: besides which, there are several of the beauties of Charles the Second's court, with whole-lengths of Charles I. and II. and James II. William III. Queens Mary and Anne, the first *Duke* of Ormond, &c. The Chapel, the Countess of Ormond's Bed-chamber, and her Dressing-room, are also usually shewn to visitors: the latter is a small octagon in one of the towers. But the most interesting apartment in the mansion, to the historian or antiquary at least, is the Evidence chamber; where are deposited the most authentic documents relative to the political state of Ireland, and to all those internal transactions, from the arrival of the English downwards, in which the house of Ormond took so conspicuous a part. This room furnishes ample materials to illustrate the domestic economy of a great Irish baron of former day; and throws great light on the modes of living, costume, and an infinite variety of other curious particulars, of remote times:—yet no use has hitherto been made of the mass of *evidence* here collected, if we except the trifling details extracted by Carte for his lives of the Ormonds. From the top of one of the turrets, is gained a fine view of a vast extent of flat country, skirted by distant mountains. Throughout the mansion, notwithstanding its irregularities, there extends an air of combined antiquity and nobility, which renders the whole interesting in no common degree. We should not omit to mention, that the stables have an appearance of grandeur, appropriate to the noble residence to which they are attached; and that there is a good conservatory and kitchen-garden.

The other buildings deserving notice are the *Bishop's Palace*, which is only a respectable mansion near the cathedral; the *Charter School*, for 70 boys, first opened



in the year 1745; and the *College*, or *Free-School*, originally founded by the Butler or Ormond family, and rebuilt of late years upon a large scale. The election of master to this school is vested in the provost, fellows, and scholars of Trinity College, Dublin. The foundation is handsomely endowed, and the school has obtained some reputation.

Taken altogether, Kilkenny may justly claim to be considered a respectable city; though its beauty, which has been so much praised by some writers, is rather that of situation than the result of a good disposition of the streets, or of any continuity of even tolerably handsome houses: there is not, indeed, a single street, considered as a whole, that will bear the praise of respectability, and still less that of uniformity. The population throughout appears abundant; but the lower orders are not the most decently dressed that may be observed in Irish towns, and would seem not the most orderly disposed. Still, Kilkenny must be considered as no ordinary *refreshment* to the traveller through Leinster, possessing as it does, so many objects of interest without their equal through many an extensive tract of the province, and so picturesquely does it stand upon the brink of the beauteous Nore.

At the time of our visit, the place derived a singularly pleasing feature from the immense number of wall-flowers, which were growing, intermixed with the brightest verdure, on the low roofs of a very great number of the dwellings, and were then in full bloom, and gave their delightful fragrance to the whole atmosphere. We derived yet greater satisfaction from a walk (which we would advise no tourist to omit) along the banks of the Nore, commencing from the bridge nearest the castle, and following a footway which leads beneath the before mentioned antique wall of that building, and is planted in continuation with elms. Here, on a fine summer's evening, such as we were favoured with, much that

will gratify and interest is assembled. The river on the left, gliding at once swiftly and serenely on its clear and shining course, is a remarkably pleasing object; and, shortly, on its opposite bank, we view a noble seat, which in the tranquillity of closing day, appears a picture of elegant repose: on the other hand, the long continuing mass of wall, tinted by age with every variety of mellowed hue, and profusely hung one-third of the way from its top with wall-flowers, whose scent adds a charm to the softness and stillness of the air, presents antiquity clothed by Flora with the richest beauty, and beauty relieved and heightened by the antique, in a manner that touches and delights the observer. Returning, either twilight, or the earliest beams of the moon, give the most exquisite softness to the river-scene, and the perspective of the marble bridge. It is impossible to describe the enchantment produced by the latter, when the departing rays of light, reflected from the sky and river, seem alternately to mingle with the dark arches, and to draw their shades into union with themselves: the whole structure appears to bestride the waters more like a vision than a substantial object; it seems every moment ready to flit from the view; or it recalls at every step, if its effect does not even exceed, the most touchingly aerial subjects of the old masters.

We here conclude an Excursion which was to us at least not without objects to gratify and interest; and, to pursue the next, must reconduct the reader to Dublin.

EXCURSION XI.

From Dublin to Tallaght, as described; and through Blessington, Ballymore Eustace, Stratford, Baltinglass, Carlow, Leighlin-Bridge, Gowran, Thomastown, Inistioge, and New Ross, to Wexford.

THIS outlet from Dublin, like that last described, is well studded with gentlemen's seats, and every way appropriate to the environs of a great city. At a few miles distance may be obtained, from a considerable elevation, a view of the metropolis, with the Bay, Howth, &c.; and on reaching the chain of hills, which, on the left, swell into the Dublin and Wicklow mountains, we look back upon an extensive stretch of fine open champaign country. The hilly tract then puts on a very bleak and barren aspect, and is accompanied besides with some miles of execrable road: patches of cultivated land appear, however, on the waste, surrounding miserable cabins of mud and furze, erected by the occupiers, who have the satisfaction at least of inhabiting their dreary tenements rent-free.

BLESSINGTON, fourteen miles from Dublin, the first village we arrive at in the county of Wicklow, is pleasantly situated on a rising ground near the river Liffey, and is itself neat and cheerful looking: a fair which was held here on the day of our visit, added of course such features of hilarity as an Irish fair, thronged by rustics in their long frize coats, can bestow. The Marquis of Downshire, to whom this place belongs, has a fine *Seat* in its neighbourhood. The *Church*, erected by this nobleman, is a handsome new edifice. On the farther side of the village several seats of a formerly

occupying gentry are observed in ruins: we scarcely needed to be informed that these also are mementos of the rebellion of 1798.

Leaving this village, we enter a portion of the county of Dublin, detached from the remainder, and encircled by the counties of Wicklow and Kildare. And here it is worth the tourist's while to quit the main road, to visit the fall of the Liffey at Poll-a-Phuca, or *The Demon's Hole*. On the way, he will pass *Russborough*, the seat of the Earl of Miltown, a modern-built house, with a noble extent of front, and containing a good collection of pictures. Of Poll-a-Phuca waterfall, it is impossible to convey so good an idea in words as the reader will obtain from an inspection of our plate. By that will be seen, that there are in fact two distinct falls, which, if united, would not equal the descent of the water at Powerscourt, to be described in the next Excursion. But as Poll-a-Phuca greatly exceeds the latter in breadth, it perhaps makes as fine a cascade, though it is one far less celebrated. On one side, the dell, for some distance both above and below the fall, is edged with abrupt and naked rocks; on the other, the bank, being less steep, is cut into walks, planted with shrubs, and diversified with moss houses and seats—embellishments, for which the inhabitants of the vicinity, who often come in parties here in the summer season, are indebted to the late Earl of Miltown.

The road is regained at BALLYMORE EUSTACE, a small town on the Liffey near where it issues from the dell of Poll-a-Phuca. It has a handsome *Bridge* over that river, which, though shallow here, is of considerable width. The *Church* was destroyed by the rebels in 1798. From the ancient family of Eustace, whose ruined *Castle*, formerly of great strength, stands not far from Kilcullen Bridge, the place derives its name. Near, are the remains of a monastic institution, still retaining the appellation of *New Abbey*, though founded

by a Sir Rowland Eustace in the fifteenth century. The church of this monastery, which contained a fine monument to the founder, was pulled down nearly 90 years ago, to furnish materials for building a Roman-catholic chapel in the neighbourhood.

STRATFORD, on the Slaney, is a small manufacturing town, which owed its origin to the Earl of Aldborough, as representative of the family of Stratford; who also, in 1790, liberally endowed the chapelry (it being a district taken out of the parish of Baltinglass) with lands to the value of £50 per annum.

Another road to Baltinglass from Blessington leads through a desolate mountainous country, in a wild pass of which the car-drivers shew the stranger a small natural cave in the rocks, which, however, possesses no features of the remarkable. As at the last mentioned place, so at Baltinglass, it was the fair-day on our arrival: sufficient indications of which were observed in the number of peasants directing their steps towards it with their pigs, and other *home* productions, for sale. At the outskirts, several buxom, decently dressed lasses were stopping to wash their feet at a brook, and to array themselves in their clean shoes and stockings, previously to entering the fair, having walked from their habitations unincumbered by those articles of apparel. The over-grown population of the country shewed itself in the single living mass which filled the town, and through which it was scarcely possible for our vehicle to force a passage. The driver, to accelerate its progress, applied his whip pretty freely among the crowd; who, we must do them the justice to say, received the lash, and even some occasional concussions from the wheels, with the most perfect good-humour. There were a few cattle standing for bidders; but the pigs, like their owners, were perfectly out of number.

BALTINGLASS gives title of Baron to the noble family of Stratford: it is governed by a sovereign, his deputy, a

recorder, and a town-clerk. It is situated on the river Slaney, and has pretty extensive manufactories of linen, woollen, and diaper goods. Formerly it was an assize-town, and parliaments have been held in it. The tourist may inspect the venerable ruins of a *Castle*; as well as some *Cromlechs* in the vicinity; here, it is supposed, having been held the grand *Baal-tinne* of the southern states of Leinster.

A long ruined chapel, a belfry, and a plain east window, are the remains of the *Abbey* of Baltinglass, which stood on the banks of the Slaney. Dermot Mac Morogh, King of Leinster, founded this abbey for Cistercians in 1148 or 1151. The abbot was mitred, and sat in parliament. In 1185, Albin O'Molloy, the then abbot, who was afterwards Bishop of Ferns, in a sermon which he preached in Christ Church, Dublin, inveighed bitterly against the debaucheries of the Norman clergy, who, he asserted, had vitiated the probity and innocence of the Irish ecclesiastics. John Galbally, the last abbot, surrendered on the 15th of December, 1537, to Henry VIII., and was allowed a pension. A grant of the abbey and its possession was made, in the 33rd of the same king, to Thomas Eustace, Viscount Baltinglass; and another, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Sir Henry Harrington, Knt.

Approaching CARLOW, from the Castle-Dermot road, which we may here rejoin, the mountain called *Clogrennan* appears directly in front, cultivated to its very summit, with the town in the bottom; and the *Catholic College*, a neat building, is seen on the left on entering. The *Castle*, which was erected by Lord Justice De Lacy in 1180, as a security to the then frontier of the pale at this place, stands on a small eminence over the Barrow, and has evidently been a strong and noble fortress: it commands an enchanting prospect. In 1397, this castle was taken by Mac Murrough, styling himself King of Leinster; and it remained for a very considerable period

in the hands of his descendants. The ruins of the *Abbey* are picturesque. The principal street, which is long, contains many good houses, and has upon the whole an air of much respectability; but at either termination we saw several cottages, the pride of whose inmates appeared to be the size of their muck-heaps before the doors.

The assizes are held at Carlow, as the shire-town. It was incorporated by James I., the magistrates being a sovereign, and two sergeants; and it gives title of Viscount to the family of Dawson, now represented by the Earl of Portarlington. The market, which is for butter and corn, is extremely well-attended: much of the former article vended here finds its way to the English metropolis. There is also a manufacture of woollen cloth; and many of the inhabitants derive employment and advantage from their vicinity to the collieries at Castle-Comer, by occupying themselves in transporting the coals to various parts of the country. The Barrow, which here makes a fine appearance, separates the town and county from Queen's County: the passage on its bosom to the Grand Canal at Athy, 10 miles distant, in the Company's boats, is a delightful one; being through a beautifully diversified country, rising boldly from the banks of the river, and richly ornamented with intermingled seats, tillage, and pasture.

At the commencement of the rebellion of 1641, the Irish besieged Carlow. Part of the Earl of Ormond's army, under the command of Sir Patrick Wemys, was sent, in 1642, to re-obtain it. On their approach the insurgents burnt the town, and fled; but had 50 of their number killed in the pursuit. Again, however, the Irish possessed themselves of the place; but, in 1650, Ireton wrested it from their hands: and ever since that period the castle has been suffered to fall to decay.

On *Brown's Hill*, in a field about a mile and a half from Carlow, is an immense rude *Cromlech*, seeming to

have fallen from some of its original supporters, which have been removed from the spot, as it now rests with one of its edges on the ground, while the raised end to the east is kept in an inclined position by but three pillars, though a fourth stands useless near them. There are 1280 feet of solid contents in the three supporters and covering stone, and the entire weight is nearly 90 tons.

ARDGLASS, as the name signifies, is a high green hill, about four miles north of Carlow, on which stands a singularly rude and rural *Roman-Catholic Chapel*, built, according to tradition, by a lady of the family of Hartpole. It is thatched, and in the form of a cross; in one of whose arms is the burial-place of the Grace family. The eminence on which this chapel stands, affords a fine view over the counties of Kildare and Carlow, watered by the windings of the Barrow and the Grees.

The angle of Carlow county to our left, which is surrounded on three sides by that of Wicklow, contains nothing to entitle it to particular notice. The chief places are HACKETSTOWN, situated in a mountainous country; and RATHVILLY, and TULLOW, on the river Slaney. Something more than two miles from Hacketstown stand the ruins of *Clonmore Castle*, a square building, with towers on the north and south sides. The fast-decaying walls are of great thickness, over-grown with ivy, which mantles as though it would conceal their numerous breaches, together with the ruinous window. The wet ditch still surrounding it appears to have been formerly one of its strongest defences.

In a low plain field, near a rivulet, on the road from Hacketstown to Tullow, is a *Cromlech* of more artificial form than is commonly observed in those pagan remains. Its sides are enclosed, so as to form a room 18 feet long, perfectly secured from the weather. The large sloping stone which covers the whole increases in thickness upwards to its centre, where it comes nearly to a point:

this stone is 23 feet long: its under surface is plain and even; but the upper or convex side has in it a large channel, from which branch several small ones; the whole apparently intended for sacrificial purposes. At the west end is a species of portico, eight feet high, six feet wide, and four deep: and from this portico, westward, extends a kind of avenue, about 40 yards long, formed by small irregular artificial hillocks.—The Cromlech is situated upon the lands of Tobinstown.

From Carlow to Leighlin-Bridge, the road possesses many beauties; the country being extremely rich, and the Barrow continually appearing to give added interest to the views. Carlow *Race-Course* is seen on the left; its length is two miles Irish. On both sides of the road numbers of wild apple-trees adorn the hedges; and their abundant blossoms afforded a pretty feature at the period of our tour. The windings of the Barrow become remarkably picturesque, as we approach LEIGHLIN-BRIDGE.

The *Bridge*, of eight arches, from which this place is named, was built in 1320, by the same Maurice Jakis, canon of the cathedral of Kildare, who erected the the bridge of Kilcullen; and as in the instance of Old Kilcullen, so in that of Old Leighlin, the date of this structurer is that also of the decay of the original town. The bridge, the river, and an ivied square tower, on its banks, called the *Black Castle*, form together a very pleasing view.

OLD LEIGHLIN yet exists at the distance of two miles and a quarter W. by N. This place was formerly a city; and is still, in union with Ferns, (in Wexford) a bishop's see. The union took place in 1600: but the bishopric is said to have been established so early as 632. The diocese of Leighlin comprehends the entire county of Carlow, a considerable portion of the Queen's County, and extends into Wicklow and Kilkenny. The chapter is composed of a dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer,

archdeacon, and four prebendaries. On the arrival of the English, Donat, then bishop, rebuilt the *Cathedral*, which had been destroyed by fire: it is at present the parish-church, and in its exterior it resembles the generality of those simple edifices. The interior is kept in excellent order by the Bishop. Besides this structure, a *Seat* of the Rev. Mr. Vigors, and a few poor cabins, there at present no buildings in Old Leighlin: but a celebrated *Well*, at the eastern end of the church, surrounded by fine ash trees, and dedicated to St. Laserian, the founder of the see, is much resorted to by the people of the neighbourhood. Altogether, something of the wild and romantic attaches to these remains in the mountainous region where they stand.

Soon after leaving Leighlin-Bridge, a large stone appears by the road side on the left placed there in 1216, when old Leighlin was incorporated: it is inscribed, "*Terminus Burgens. Lechlinen. hic lapis est;*" and two other similar stones, one at Wells, and the other in the mountains, remain, with this, to shew the boundaries of the ancient liberties. Near, we observe a striking specimen of the Irish *Rath*, of which our accompanying plate affords a correct view. Farther on the ruined *Church of Killanane* occurs on the right: it is picturesquely ivied: and in the church-yard, which is still used as a cemetery, we noticed a grave ornamented in the manner of the country.

The ROYAL OAK is a clean neat inn, at a little village so called. At a short distance beyond, our road quits the county of Carlow, which, however, extends very considerably both to the east and south from this spot, yet offers nothing that will particularly attract the travellers' notice. Southwardly, it runs to a point along the bases of the mountains which divide it from Wexford; the extremity being formed by a district called ST. MUL-LIN'S, a tract which a statistical writer describes as "the most uncivilized in the diocese, (of Leighlin,) as no

clergyman of the established church ever sets his foot in it." Yet St. Mullin's is a vicarage, though without church, glebe, tythes, or any stipend for the incumbent. The village, which now gives name to the barony in which it is situated, was anciently called Teighmoling, or the House of St. Moling; he having founded a monastery here in 632, the year in which he was made Bishop of Ferns; and, dying in 697, he was buried in its church. Legendary history tells us, that this holy man was born in Hy Kensallagh, a part of the county of Wexford; that he spent the greater part of his life in the recesses of the Wicklow mountains between Glendaloch and Teighmolin; that he was a signal benefactor to his country, by persuading Finachta, monarch of Ireland, to remit the tribute of oxen which had been imposed by Tuathal Techmar on Leinster, A. D. 134; and, finally, that he delivered prophecies, foretelling many things of the future kings of Ireland, their warlike exploits, &c. &c. The monastery was plundered in 951, and destroyed by fire in 1138.

In subsequent times, some canons of the Augustine order settling here, founded an *Abbey*, the ruins of which yet remain. They stand on a hill which overlooks the Barrow; and consist of ruins of two chapels, a third more perfect, and other remains, at 100 yards distance, which extend almost to the river's brink. Graves and sepulchral stones cover a large space around; the spot being, by the superstitious, held in the utmost veneration, from the supposed sanctity of its patron, St. Mullin. It was the burial-place of the Cavenaghs, when that ancient family were Kings of Leinster; and their present respectable descendants still make it their cemetery. Hills and mountains narrow the view from Mullin's on every side; and complete a scene, well calculated to excite feelings and recollections connected with awe and not unpleasing melancholy.

Re-entering the county of Kilkenny, we observe

Shankill Castle on the right, the seat of the Aylward family. The entrance to the grounds is modern Gothic, and in good taste. Near here the coach to Kilkenny overtaking three tall countrymen wrapped up in their frize coats, we saw the driver apply his whip unceremoniously to their shoulders, for no earthly reason, that we could imagine, except that they were within its reach, when to our surprise, and something to our indignation, the sturdy peasants merely winced beneath the strokes, without showing the slightest change in the expression of their countenances, without a hand raised, or a word spoken, in sign of resentment! Yet such an unprovoked aggression, we need not inform our English readers, had it occurred on this side of the channel, would infallibly have proved the signal for dragging the coachman from his box, and either consigning him to the nearest ditch, or repaying the wanton attack by a hearty drubbing. Not 100 miles from the same spot, we passed the residence of a gentleman, who, as we were informed, having recently thought proper to remove his park-gates to what he conceived a more eligible point of entrance, with infinite care removed the *mile-stone*, that had stood by their side, along with them! Nor was the conduct of this ingenious personage entirely without a precedent: for it is a fact that a certain inn-keeper, in another part of the country, had one of these very useful travelling indexes taken from its proper situation, and placed in a spot where he was enabled through the change to make some addition to his previous charges for posting: and he actually benefited by this contrivance till he was arraigned before the proper authorities for the offence; when the mile-stone was re-carried to its original site.

The parish of GRANGE-SILVÆ, east of the road to Gowran, is possessed of a new and handsome *Church*, with a beautiful steeple, erected from a design by Francis Johnson, Esq. architect: and has several resident-gentlemen who occupy handsome seats. The

adjoining parish of KILMACAHILL is less fortunate: in the Statistical Survey it is described as containing “neither town, village, inn, nor alehouse;” “the church the only public building;” and “not a single proprietor resident upon his estate.” In this part of the country, it may be remarked, the mode of washing clothes so common in France, by beating them with wooden bats in the water of a river or brook, is very generally practised.

The town of GOWRAN, which is governed by a portrieve, recorder, and town-clerk, gives title of baron to the family of Fitz-patrick, represented by the Earl of Upper Ossory. Near, is the handsome *Seat* of Lord Clifden. Gowran, it is said in Grose’s Antiquities, “had a strong castle, which was attacked by Oliver Cromwell, and resolutely defended by a Colonel Hammond, who was obliged to surrender, when Oliver ordered every officer but one to be shot, and the Popish chaplain was hanged at the butchers’ shambles. The *Church* seems to be ancient, but there are no traces that it ever was monastic. It was large; and in a little chapel on the south side is a monument of John Kelly, A. D. 1626. Another of the same name was buried 1640, with the following lines after the usual inscription:

Both wives at once he could not have:
Both to enjoy at once, he made his grave.

—Edward Bruce, the Scottish invader, burnt Gowran in 1316; and in 1405, James, Earl of Ormond, Lord Justice, died here.

The noble remains of the *Abbey of Graignemanach* are situated in the barony of Gowran, on the banks of the river Barrow. Of this monastic foundation, the work just quoted gives the following account. “A few Cistercians from Stanly in Wiltshire settled first at Loughmeran, near Kilkenny, in 1202; then at Athermolt; and lastly at the vale of St. Saviour, anciently

called *Duisk*, and afterwards *Graignemanach*, where William, Earl Marshal, erected an abbey for them, A. D. 1212. In this abbey was lodged an ancient division made of Ireland by Henry II. and completed by his son John. It was, for the times, a tolerably exact survey, on the plan of that of Doomsday Book, and the groundwork of the present arrangement of shires. The last abbot was M'Murrough O'Cavanagh, to whom a pension of £10 a year was granted on his surrender of the Abbey in 1537. He sat in parliament in right of his church, and annually paid the Bishop for his temporals £4 7s. 6d. The building was of great extent; and the architecture and sculpture, even in its present ruined state, excite our admiration. It had a beautiful octagon tower, which fell down in the year 1744."

THOMASTOWN is agreeably situated on the river Nore, over which it has a good *Bridge*, and which is navigable for small vessels from hence to Waterford. It is governed by a sovereign. This town derives its origin from the *Castle*, built in 1180, by Thomas Fitz-Anthony, who accompanied Henry II. in his Irish expedition. There are some remains of a *Convent* here, which tradition ascribes to an establishment of Dominicans, but of whom we have no certain accounts. Among the ruins is a large tomb-stone, which, the same popular legend says, covers the body of a giant.

A mail-coach road from this place to Waterford by KNOCKTOPHER, (an unimportant town) is laid down in the maps, but was not completed at the time of our Excursion. Near Knocktopher, are the fine *Seats* of Sir Henry Langrishe and Sir John Flood. Several mills are observed on the different streams of water in this part of the country; the fabrication of cloth is pretty extensive; and the people in general have the appearance of being tolerably well employed. The farming, Mr. Curwen remarks, to judge from the quantity of land under green crops, is well con-

ducted:—"and as the general soil of the country is of good staple, a farmer possessing *capital* makes such ground productive;"—but "the contrast between the farm under the direction of Sir John Flood and those which surround it, is conclusive evidence of the necessity of a due application of capital." Mr. C. had also pleasure in remarking "a small irrigated meadow of fiorin," among the "farming improvements" of Sir Henry Langrishe.

Near NEWMARKET, a village in this vicinity, is *Castle Morres*, the handsome seat of Viscount Mountmorres. KELLS and CALLAN, both situate on a stream called the King's River, lie north-west. The former is an inconsiderable village: the latter a small town, governed by a sovereign and his deputy, which was formerly of note, possessing three *Castles*, all now in ruins: the place in every other respect appears in the same dilapidated state to which it was so long ago reduced by Cromwell. It gives the title of Viscount to the family of Fielding, and that of Baron to the family of Agar. A *Friary* (says Archdall) for Augustinian Eremites was founded here, as some writers affirm, by Hugh de Mapilton, who was Bishop of Ossory from 1251 to 1256; but the real founder was James, father to Peter Earl of Ormond, who died on the 16th of April, 1487, and was interred here. The tower and walls of this friary still remain; and it is probable that the bones of the founder were laid in the wall, under two Gothic arches which yet stand near the east window. The nave of the church, with its fine lateral aisles, still remains in good preservation: the choir is now the parish church; and the cemetery of the founder's family, overgrown with moss and ivy, adjoins the choir.

Between Callan and the city of Kilkenny, to the liberties of which it adjoins on the east, lies an interesting little district, called TULLAROAN; the name of which is said to be derived from "tulla," a hill, and

“rawn,” a rivulet; an etymology not more direct and simple, than strikingly descriptive of its local character, which consists in a picturesque variety of surface, enlivened by the silver lines of numerous streams.

Tullaroan, or *Grace's Parish*, as it is as commonly designated, forms a portion of that extensive cantred called Grace's country, the whole of which, during a period of some centuries, belonged to the descendants of *Raymond le Gras*, well known in Irish history as the bulwark of early English power, as the brother-in-law of Earl Strongbow, and as the first viceroy of the island:—circumstances which receive a moral interest from the reflection, that, within the boundaries of such vast possessions, his descendants and name are at this day only found to exist in the obscure and fallen sphere of an humble peasantry. Three-fourths of this parish consist of hills, approaching to the mountainous character, which enclose an extremely fine vale of pastureable and meadow land ground, opening to the south into a rich and well planted country, beyond which the mountain called Slieunaman, in Tipperary, rises majestically to the view at about seven miles distance. These hills are part of a chain of some length, which runs westwardly from Tullaroan into the last-named county. Their soil is argillaceous, mixed with peat, and easily reclaimable by marl and lime: that of the vale is a fine aluminous earth, capable of the highest improvement, especially from the number of the rivulets that run through calcareous beds.

The village of Tullaroan consists of merely of a dozen cabins, three of which are public-houses. In the Statistical Survey of this parish, the author observes with satisfaction that more beer, in proportion, than whiskey, had been drank of late years in these houses; which the owner of one of them accounts for by the fact, that ‘a bigger drink of beer’ can be obtained for

the same money. To the too general habit of spirit-drinking this gentleman attributes in great measure the disgraceful acts which have affixed a stigma upon the lower classes of the Irish. The causes of these acts may rationally be concluded to lie much deeper; yet the observations which follow are too just to admit a single cavil. “The demoralised state of our country,” says this Reverend writer, “is the subject of much declamation, but of little exertion to endeavour a change in its character. Military and legal execution may suppress it for a while; but *the principle* still exists, and is ready to break out, whenever circumstances allow, and opportunity is given: it is a radical change in the moral state of the people that is wanting, for the *consent* to crime belongs not to individuals, but to the great body of the lower orders. The shout of approbation resounded from cabin to cabin, on the murder of Mr. Baker in the neighbouring county (of Tipperary:) and (continues the same gentleman) within two years a magistrate has been fired at in the parish of Tullaroan;—and a man was shot within two fields of the village, entering his own house. The men who have committed these acts are well known in the country, but cannot be prosecuted for want of evidence, and feel no inconvenience from the discountenance of the people, for there is no law of reputation to oppose them; and there is among the lower orders, if not a general consent, at least an indifference, to the dreadful evil of this state of things.”

Speaking of the domestic economy and general condition of the inhabitants of this district, the Survey goes on with a statement and reflections that will apply equally well to a very large proportion of the provinces of Leinster and Munster.—“The state of the cabins differ according to the circumstances of the farmers and cottagers: there has been a desire for improvement in their houses among the *better sort* of farmers: they are introducing divisions of rooms, plastered walls, built-up

fire-places, and grates; and in this respect the houses of the better farmers are tolerably comfortable. But the cabins of the labourers, and lower orders of farmers, are as dirty and disorderly as they are through all the south of Ireland. Nor shall we see it otherwise, until the minds of the people are more civilized than they are at present: ignorance, indolence, poverty, and the slavish feeling of dependence which belongs to their semi-barbarous state, (for they have the whole feeling of vassals from their struggles to pay rent) always make men insensible to the disgusting appearances of dirt, filth, and disorder. The state of mind they are in paralyzes every exertion but that which is necessary to meet imperious wants; and while those wants are presented every day, and their minds solely occupied by them, they can feel no inconvenience in their dirty, and almost brutish manner of living. Cleanliness must ever follow comfortable circumstances, and some civilization of mind, but will not go before it: when a fat pig is necessary to pay rent, when warmth is so essential to fattening with slender food, when straw is difficult to get, and a piggery difficult to build, it is very hard to persuade a poor man not to allow his pig to sleep in his cabin, and submit to all its offensiveness—his anxiety about the one makes him insensible to the other. The same feeling operates with respect to the state of their yards: dung must be made; and they rejoice more in its accumulation before their doors, than in the neatest appearance that could be presented by them. When sufficient employment shall be found, rents of cabins and gardens made moderate, and education more advanced, then shall we see decency of appearance attend decency of mind and amelioration of condition.”

“There are no noblemen or gentlemen’s seats in the parish, nor have there been any since the Grace family ceased to possess and inhabit the Castle of Courtstown.”

Of this once princely *Castle*, and its former occu-

pants, some notice may be taken in the present place. The central situation of Tullaroan in the district of Grace's county, naturally occasioned its selection for the seat of the chief castle of that renowned race. This edifice is plausibly supposed to have been built in the reign of John, by William le Gras, constable of Kilkenny, by whom a building formerly existing in that city, called Grace's Castle, was also erected. Its ruins through successive centuries evinced considerable grandeur, as well as great strength; exhibiting the spirit of a powerful chieftain, and the taste of a feudal age. Courtstown Castle consisted of an outward ballium or envelope, having a round tower at each angle, as well as at each side of an embattled entrance to the south, which was farther defended by a portcullis. Within the area or outward court thus formed, and which comprehend about an acre of ground, stood the body of the castle, inclosing an inner court of an oblong shape, but whose general outline was polygonal. A massive square tower, or keep, projected from the centre of the south front, directly opposite to the embattled entrance of the exterior ballium before mentioned. The walls of this tower were of considerable thickness, and the rests and fire-places within shewed it to have originally admitted five floors. A round tower terminated each angle of the same front; and another stood on the east side, flanking a portal, furnished with a portcullis, which led into the inner court, while the exterior of the western front corresponded with the eastern. The spacious hall formed a large portion of the latter, occupying the entire space between the portal with its round tower and a square tower at the north-east angle, corresponding with another of the same form at the north-west: between the two latter towers there was only a high embattled wall which inclosed the inner area on the north side. There is said to have been a communication between the several buildings of the inner court by means of a gallery;

and in the centre the traces of a draw-well are still visible; as are vestiges beyond the outer walls of the bowling-green, cock-pit, fish-ponds, &c. Once mounds of earth to the south of the castle, yet called "bow-butts," were doubtless the spots where the followers were exercised in the practice of archery. Such were the features of this ancient baronial residence so late as the year 1760; but now, after supplying, from a date considerable prior up to the present time, abundant materials for all the neighbouring structures, and for repairing the roads, &c. its very foundations are beginning to disappear—

"Broke by the share of every rustic plough.

"—— So perish monuments of mortal birth;

"So perish all in turn, save well-recorded worth."

(*Childe Harold.*)

When the country was covered with trees, the situation of this castle must have been singularly happy. It stood at the foot of a hill, with a large wooded glen immediately adjoining, through the centre of which a small river hurries along its transparent waters. In front, a rich vale, with a diversified surface, was bounded at a mile's distance, by a chain of undulating hills, with glens between, well-wooded, (as appears by the numerous stumps of old trees) and streams flowing all around. But the attainder of the Grace family for its attachment to the last of the Stuarts who possessed the English crown, proved at once the destruction of the sylvan honours of Tullaroan, and of swift decay and dilapidation to the proud towers of ancient Courtstown.


William le Gras succeeded to all the princely possessions in Wales and England, besides those in Leinster, which had been held by his father, the celebrated Raymond. Grace's country was at this time held as of the lordship of Tullaroan, which Earl Strongbow had granted to Raymond le Gros, to be held as unconditionally as he himself held his castle of Kilkenny. This

peculiar privilege exempted this district from all feudal acknowledgments; and it appears to have been the only land in the county that paid no chiefry to, and was nowise dependent on, the Earl Marshal's castle of Kilkenny. We find, 8th of Richard I. (1197) that 'William le Gras, Lord of Tullaghrohan,' was governor of Kilkenny, as well as constable and seneschal of Leinster; and the Earl of Pembroke's writ, 3rd of John, (1202) is still extant,* directed to him as seneschal of Leinster, the term seneschal being at that period synonymous with governor.† In those times, the English conquerors could alone maintain their dominion by the iron arm of coercion; and the protection of their domains, and the more complete subjugation of the natives, were equal inducements with them to erect those "towers and ramparts," which Fearflatha O'Gnive, bard to the O'Neals, (see Walker's Irish Bards, p. 160) complains of having disfigured the fair sporting fields of Erin. The situation of Grace's country, continually exposed to the attacks of its very naturally restless neighbours, the Fitz-patricks, the O'Mores, and the M'Morroughs, became the occasion of erecting, independently of Courtstown Castle, not less than 16 of these formidable strong-holds, by various members of the Grace family, remains of which are still in existence; besides others, it is probable, all vestiges of which are swept away. And had their mighty occupants converted them to simply defensive purposes, though the moral ground of the natives' attacks would not have been the less strong, that of their conquerors would have been infinitely stronger, could they have been seen (which candour must admit they were not) to abstain from all warfare merely predatory, or founded in motives of feudal aggression.

* Black Book in Prio. of Christ Church, Dublin; and Archdall's Monast. Hibern. p. 153.

† Earl Strongbow was by Henry II. appointed *Seneschal of Ireland*.

The first William de Gras died between the years 1210 and 1219; and nothing of particular interest occurs relative to his descendant in the course of several reigns. John le Gras was empowered by a commission, dated at Naas, the 4th of Richard II. (1381) to assemble and array all the inhabitants of the county of Kilkenny, having temporalities there, and to treat with English *rebels* and Irish *enemies*; a curious distinction, as it appears in the present day, though one which obtains in all the formal law acts of that period; and evincing for how long a time the subjection of the country in general to the English crown, was tacitly denied by the government itself to have a legal existence; while none of the incidents of even feudal superiority were claimed by its civil and military chiefs, except by silent implication, or by merely titular assumption of authority. It was not till the government acquired the power to *punish* the ancient proprietors for their long and obstinate resistance to English sway, that the once so potent Desmond family, the O'Neals, the O'Donnells, and so many others, who, ever since the reign of Henry II. had, in their formal intercourse with the court of London or its representative in Dublin, been uniformly treated with as open *enemies*, became upon the instant *rebels*, and, as such, forfeited their vast possessions, inherited from a long line of ancestors, to their liege lord, the sovereign of England! Richard II. granted his licence, in 1385, to Baron Almaric Gras, Lord of Grace's country, "for the better preservation of the peace of the county of Kilkenny," to marry Tibina, daughter of O'Meagher, dynast or prince of Ikerrin, (in Tipperary,) "an Irishman, and captain of his nation or sept, all laws to the contrary notwithstanding." Oliver Gras, Baron of Tullaroan, was Custos Pacis of Kilkenny in 1470. The dauntless spirit and inflexible justice of this baron acquired for him the admiration and attachment of the native Irish: senti-



ments which were strengthened by his marriage with Ellen, daughter of O'More, dynast of Leix, one of the noblest and most distinguished of the ancient regal families. The farther history of the Graces, down to the reign of James I. chiefly details their border frays with the Fitz-patricks of Upper Ossory, the Mac Moroughs, Fitz-Geralds, &c. the consequences of long and almost implacable feuds; which, however, appear, in some instances, to have subsided, as when Tirlagh Fitz-patrick, who died in 1627, intermarried with Onora, daughter of Baron Oliver Grace of Courtstown. Soon after the execution of Charles I. the manor of Tullaroan, with the other estates in Tipperary and Queen's County, were seized by the Commonwealth; and the recovery of this ancient property by the family may be attributed to a special ordinance of the Protector in favour of 'John Grace, of Courtstowne castel, in the countie of Kilkenny, in Ireland, Esq.' Tradition has perhaps magnified Cromwell's partiality; and the instances of it still repeated by the peasantry, and the family, are indeed very great; but, without regarding uncertain anecdotes, a stronger proof of favour, or of the Protector's disposition to enlarged and liberal views, (whenever the Protestant bigotry and political animosities of the times, in regard to Ireland, did not operate to narrow, and sometimes even to brutalise them,) could not have been afforded, than that of restoring this hereditary property to a Roman-catholic gentleman and a royalist. Still, however, some parts of the original Grace property were successfully retained by Oliver's soldiers of fortune. At length, the ever memorable Revolution of 1688, productive of so much happiness to England, occasioned the final ruin of this ancient and illustrious family. Tradition relates, that possessing a high character and great influence, its then representative was early solicited, with splendid promises of royal favour, to join King William's party; but that yielding

to the strong impulse of honourable feelings, he, on perusing the letter of the invading general, seized a card, accidentally lying near him, and unceremoniously wrote upon it a spirited refusal, conveying at once his contempt for the proposition, and his determination firmly to adhere to the allegiance he had sworn to James II.* He died in 1691; and his eldest son Oliver survived him but nine days, having returned in exhausted health a very short time previous to his father's decease, but subsequently to the treaty of Limerick. The manor of Tullaroan, and the other estates then becoming the property of his younger brother John, who was included in that treaty, though Oliver, by reason of his fatal absence, could not be, they remained in his undisturbed possession until 1701, when the Dowager Viscountess Dillon (relict of his uncle Sheffield Grace) by maliciously discovering the return and survivorship of his eldest brother, procured their forfeiture. The estates at that time produced an annual rent of £9,000, and had been in the possession of the Grace family 530 years. Robert Grace, only son of the dispossessed proprietor, first entered into the French service (it is said as a private soldier) and afterwards dying unmarried at Isleworth, near London, with him terminated the direct Courtstown line of the Grace family. The Castle of Courtstown, and other parts of the parish of Tullaroan, appear, after having been purchased by the "Governor and Company for making hollow sword-blades," and passing through the hands of some intermediate and transitory possessors, to have become very early in the last century the property of

* This card, which was sent uncovered by the bearer of the rejected offer, happening to be the six of hearts, is to this day very generally known by the name of "Grace's Card" in the city of Kilkenny; as the nine of diamonds is styled in North Britain "The Curse of Scotland," from the Duke of Cumberland having written his sanguinary orders for military execution upon the back of that card, after the memorable battle of Culloden, in 1745.

the ancestor of Sir Wheeler Cuffe, Bart. and are now in his possession.*

About half a mile eastward of Courtstown Castle, stand the ruins of *Tullaroan Church* and *Grace's Chapel*, both founded by the Grace family. The architecture of the former exhibits nothing curious or uncommon, though many circumstances mark its antiquity. Its smallness, its semicircular as well as pointed arches, and narrow oblong windows, seem to indicate that its construction was in the twelfth century. The eastern window, of two narrow and long lights, is still entire. The interior consists of a nave and choir: in the latter are two seats in the wall, the workmanship of which shews them to be of a date considerably posterior to that of the general building, as they are beautifully turned in the order of the obtusely-pointed arch, like those of Henry VII.'s chapel. A small arched door-way leads from the edifice into Grace's Chapel, the dimensions of which are about 27 feet by 17; and its construction so excellent, that the interior walls are to this day almost uninjured, though for more than two centuries they have been exposed to every vicissitude of the weather. It has two narrow windows of pointed arches, adorned with labels, to the east; a large window, consisting of three similar lights, to the south; and to the west, a window like the eastern ones, and a very richly ornamented entrance through a pointed arch, being profusely covered with sculpture in high raised relief. The exterior mouldings of a very deep architrave meet in a high point, surmounted with a large trefoil leaf; on either side of which are smaller leaves, terminating a rich catenation work, resembling the stocks of bearded corn-ears interwoven with trefoil leaves, both projecting

* For the far greater part of these particulars relative to the Grace family, and to Tullaroan, we are indebted to the *Statistical Survey* before mentioned, written, with extensive knowledge of his subject, by the Rev. Robert Shaw, A. M.

alternately from this vegetable chain. At the turn of the arch, on each exterior side of the architrave, is at knot of four leaves, curiously entwined; lower down, another knot of two leaves; and at bottom a large single rose. There is a rose also on each side of the large trefoil leaf already mentioned as surmounting the architrave; and over it are the armorial bearings of the founder, with inscriptions, in Gothic characters, directing the reader, in the usual form, to pray for his soul, and that of his wife Onoria. The execution of these ornaments, and particularly the flowers, in Kilkenny marble, exhibits an astonishing degree of accuracy and delicate precision. Tradition assigns a spot within these walls to the remains of John Grace of Courtstown, who lost the great patrimony of his ancestors in the manner already related; and on a plain table monument is an inscription to the memory of Mr. Gabriel Clarke, ancestor of the present Marshal Henry Clarke, Duke of Feltre in France, who, dying in 1728, and claiming alliance with the Grace family, directed his body to be interred here.

South of the church are some remains of foundation-walls, which are said to have belonged to a small *Friary*, founded by the Grace family. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and a dependent cell on the great Dominican Priory of Rosibercon. At the *Rath* of Rathly-Grace, (within the parish boundary, there is scarcely a town land without its rath, moat, lis, druid's chair, or some other pagan remain of religion or defence,) there is still a portion of the eastern window: together with the gable end, and side walls of an old *Church*. The dimensions of this church, which also attests the piety and opulence of the feudal barons of Courtstown, are 30 feet by 18; and near that of Killaghy-Grace, which was likewise of their founding, one of them had a residence; and part of the walls of their *Castle of Killaghy*, are also yet standing.

About a quarter of a mile north, at the cross-road in

the village of Tullaroan, are two handsome stone *Crosses*, produced by the munificent spirit of the same family: one having in its centre an alto-relievo of the Saviour, and on the shaft a now illegible inscription; the other ornamented with an alto-relievo of the Virgin, or of some female saint, in flowing drapery. Of the latter, a tradition prevails that it was erected by a French lady of high rank, who, following one of the Grace family from France, but finding that he was married, intended it at once as a memorial of his inconstancy, and of her pious resignation to the disappointment. A third cross, standing on the road-side near Bonnestown, between Tullaroan and Kilkenny, is said to have been designed to commemorate the melancholy fate of a young man of the Courtstown family, who had been but two days married when he was killed at this spot by a fall from his horse. On the west side of the pedestal is a shield, with a lion rampant, impaling a chevron between three arrows; and under the shield the names

edmund. grace. and catarin. archer.

in high raised Gothic characters. On the south side is inscribed:

*cheill. is. death. remember. and. think.
upon. this. cross. when. thou. dost. see.
and. pray. for. them. that. build. this. cross.*

On the north side, the only words discernible are

sacr.——monumentum:

but on the east may be deciphered:

*12. of au.——1619.——catarin. archer.
als.——deceased. the.——that. build. this. cross.*

The date is somewhat remarkable, as being not less than 16 years after the accession of James I., when the “old religion,” it would hence appear, was still in practical operation in the country parts of Ireland. About half a

mile westward of this cross, is a stone, with some rude unintelligible characters upon it, said to be Irish. The peasantry call it *Clogh Grasagh* (Grace's stone) and say, that the funeral procession of some popular favourite of the family extended from that spot to Kilkenny, so that those who happened to follow last stood here while the ceremony of interment was performing in the cathedral.

The whole parish of Tullaroan is inhabited by farmers, most of whom bear the name of Grace, but the most respectable of whom occasionally holds his own plough. There are four hedge-schools, attended by about 100 children, four-fifths of whom are boys: the school-houses, like those of most other hedge-schools, are furnished with a few miserable desks and forms, but not sufficiently roomy for half the pupils that attend. A well-built Roman-catholic chapel stands close to the village; the clergyman of which lives in Freshford, five miles distant: neither is there any clergyman of any persuasion, resident in the parish, (which is a rectory and vicarage,) nor any place of worship except this chapel. There are but two protestant families, consisting together of five individuals, one of which has very recently settled here. The increase of Catholicism in the district since 1731, may be seen from the following data:

1731.		1820.	
Cathol.	Protest.	Cathol.	Protest.
613.	64.	2455.	5.

And it has been satisfactorily ascertained, that more than 140 persons went over to the church of Rome during the *late* incumbency.

The road from Thomastown to Kilkenny commands, at the distance of seven miles from the latter city, a noble view of the rich and extensive plain in which it is situated, and passes a picturesque succession of vales and glens on the right. This part of the county, taken altogether, may be said to be tolerably well-wooded, and it abounds with gentlemens' seats. The land is in

general excellently inclosed, and the fences industriously preserved. Lime, burnt with Kilkenny coal, is the manure most in use.

Leaving Thomastown in an opposite direction, and taking the road to Waterford, the Nore, with its numerous cornmills on an extensive scale, is the only feature of interest occurring within the distance of some miles; and after leaving that river on the right, the face of the country abruptly changes, becoming barren and stony, and but thinly inhabited. Pass the extensive and beautifully ivied ruins of *Jerpoint Abbey* on the left.

This abbey was founded in 1180, by Donogh, King of Ossory, for Cistercian monks, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Its inmates had sufficient address to procure from King John a confirmatory grant of all the lands bestowed upon them by the King of Ossory; and Edward III. at the instance of Philip, then abbot, farther granted them an inspeximus and confirmation of former charters. The abbot sat in parliament; an honour sometimes found so inconvenient, that in 1375, he petitioned the King to the effect, that as the house was dependent on the Abbey of Baltinglass, whose superior attended parliaments and answered for the abbots under his care, while his own appearance was to his great loss and distress, and to the great loss and expenditure of his monastery, he therefore prayed an exemption; and Edward accordingly exonerated him from farther attendance. The last abbot was Oliver Grace, who surrendered the abbey on the 18th of March, 31 of Henry VIII. The general style resembles that of other Cistercian abbeys of the same period; but a cluster of pillars in the interior, which are visible from the road, have so much of the Saxon character, as sufficiently evinces the impropriety of affixing that generic name to a style of architecture so far from peculiar to the Saxons, that it is seen in the buildings of countries which the Saxons never visited, and was in fact

the growth of a barbaric imitation of the Roman style in all the countries of ancient Europe.

Pursuing the same route, a tract devoted chiefly to feeding extends for many miles, frequently putting on a very barren aspect, and with scarcely a tree to be seen in any direction. The huts and their inhabitants have a congenial wildness of character: and children totally naked are no uncommon sight in the interior of most. A few miles before reaching the Suir opposite Waterford, the country becomes rather more cultivated; at the distance of a mile from that city, *Graney Castle*, in ruins, upon the river's bank, is seen on the right at the extremity of an extensive open tract; and the Suir here appears a broad and noble stream. The view of Waterford, as we approach, and the rocks on the farther side of the river, has even a grand character; and is imposing in the extreme from the top of a precipitous height on the left, whose summit is only to be gained by some pedestrian exertion. In fact, from any point of view on this side of the Suir, Waterford, the fine river, the shipping, &c. make such an appearance, that we cannot wonder at King William's exclaiming, when he first obtained a sight of the place, that Ireland was a country worth fighting for. As, however, this city lies in Munster, and not in the province we are now describing, we must defer crossing its majestic watery division from Leinster, till a future opportunity.

The most interesting district to the right of the road we have just noticed, is that comprehended in the union of FIDDOWN, which contains five small parishes, and 11,000 acres; of which about 2,200 are under tillage, about 5,800 are pasture and meadow, and the remaining 3,000 mountain land, most of which, however, affords good pasturage for dry cattle or sheep. The chief eminences are the southern skirts of a range called the Walsh mountains, from the name of the family who possessed that part of

the county of Kilkenny from the time of Strongbow's invasion to that of Cromwell's protectorate. There is one *bog*, containing about 200 acres of the richest and deepest peat, called that of *Dowling*; a name whose original is precisely the same as Dublin; being a compound of "Dubh," black, and "Linn," a pool. There are several woods scattered throughout the union; the largest of which contains about 50 acres. Among the fossil production are limestone, sandstone, and a kind of variegated grey marble, which is susceptible of the highest polish.

The only collection of dwellings worth mentioning is *Pilltown*, on the road from Waterford to Carrick in Tipperary. This is a very neat village, consisting of a wide street nearly a quarter of a mile in length, inhabited by some respectable families, and with fine old trees interspersed among the cottages. It might even be made a place of some consequence; as the tide flows up to it by a branch from the Suir called the Pill. The gentlemen's seats are, *Bessborough*, that of the Ponsonbys, Earls of Bessborough; and *Belline*, that of Peter Walsh, Esq.

Bessborough is a fine old mansion, situated in a well-wooded park of 500 acres, the whole enclosed by a high stone wall. The front is about 100 feet long, and the depth of the house about 80: it is all built of hewn blue limestone, dug from quarries in the park. The date of its erection is 1744; when it was raised from a design by David Bindon, Esq. an Irish gentleman, who had visited Italy to improve his knowledge and taste in painting and architecture. The hall, the saloon, and principal parlour, are all worthy notice. In the former are four Ionic columns of Kilkenny marble, each shaft of which is one entire stone, in length 10 feet six inches. The saloon and parlour are handsome, and furnished with several good pictures; particularly a night-piece, *Peter's Denial*, by Gerard Seghero; a *Nativity*, by Jor-

daens; two fine old copies after Corregio; a Concert of Birds, by Houdikooter; Dead Game and Fruit, by Snyders; and landscapes, by Horizonti Lucatelli: besides some original and valuable paintings in the other apartments. Belline, an elegant villa, with its beautiful demesne, are almost entirely the creation of Peter Walsh, Esq. and do honour to his taste and spirit.

The *Church* adapted to the service of this union contains several monuments of the Ponsonby family. One of these consists of two fine half-length figures, in marble, of Brabazon, Earl of Bessborough, and his Countess, placed on a sarcophagus, and under a pediment, supported by four Corinthian columns, and four pilasters of the same order. At a place called *Una*, popularly *Oowning*, stands a ruined church, which was founded by Una Walsh: and in the southern angle of its cemetery, is a remarkable yew-tree, which, to judge from appearances, is coeval with the sacred structure; its centre having been sufficiently hollow from time immemorial for three or four persons without inconvenience to stand upright within it. The girth of this tree at the base, and for nearly 10 feet upwards, is 19 feet. At the north-west extremity of the parish are the ruins of *Kilkeeran Church*, with some *Crosses* of curious workmanship, and bearing various hieroglyphic and emblematical devices. At *Tybroughney* is also an ecclesiastic ruin of great antiquity; and a stately *Castle*, whose name literally meaning "Walsh's House," points to its foundation by one of that family; though popular tradition, in this as so many instances, attributes its erection to King John. King John must indeed have been an indefatigable builder, if all the castles ascribed to him in England and Ireland were actually reared by his orders. Near, are two stately *Moats*, of conical form, flattened at the top, and each with a foss around its base.—*Raths* and *Cromlechs*, are common in this neighbourhood: one of the most stu-

pendous works of the latter kind in the island stands on the lands of Kilenogue, at the north-east extremity of the union. The altar-stone of this cromlech is 16 feet long, by 12 broad, and two and a half in thickness, with an elevation from the east of upwards 15 feet, and is supported by masses of rock, placed upright on their edges, in such a manner as to strike the beholder with awe and astonishment.—At *Moondigne* is another heathen structure, consisting of large upright stones, placed on their edges in the earth, as if enclosing the tomb (as indeed is vulgarly supposed) of one of the giant race.

The parishioners of this union are in general honest, sober, and industrious; as a proof of which, the following is given in the Statistical Survey. “A charitable loan was established here in the year 1806, from stock made up by subscription, to the amount of about £150. This is lent out in small sums of from one guinea to four, as required, to the poor, interest free, and is repaid weekly, at the rate of 6d. British for every guinea so so lent: and though this has been established for seven years, and none of the money ever unemployed, by which the collective sum of nearly £2000 has passed through the hands of more than 600 people, there has not a shilling been lost by either fraud or bad debts.”*

To the left of the Waterford road from Thomastown, in the parish of LISTERLING, is a Danish *Fort* or *Moat*, of considerable dimensions, surrounded by a ditch and foss, from which the parish is supposed to derive its name, which is literally Lis-Eastling, i. e. the fort of the Easterlings, or Danes. At a short distance from this moat is a subterraneous cavern, thought to have communicated with it by an arched passage, some vestiges of which still remain. The mouth or entrance is on a level with the surface of the earth, of a circular shape,

* See Statistical Survey of Fiddown, Vol. I. p. 357. by the Rev. Joseph Sandys, A. M.

formed by flags irregularly placed, and exhibiting the appearance of a large oven. It is at present but two feet and a half deep; but at bottom, at either extremity, there are marks of a covered sewer or passage, now choaked up, but to which the more aged parishioners recollect to have seen stone steps, leading downwards. Very probably, it was intended to conceal and store corn in ancient times; some caverns similar to this having been discovered in other parts of the country.—The inhabitants in general consist of what in this country are called middling farmers, holding farms of from 10 to 30 acres. The universal food is potatoes and sour milk; the wealthiest seldom or never eating meat above two or three times a year, at great festivals, or at the marriages of their children. When the priest holds stations, as they here denominated, for confession, (the population being, almost without an exception, Roman-catholic) he is generally entertained with a breakfast of tea and white bread, as a very unusual luxury; and on these occasions, the people commonly borrow *the* tea-kettle, tea-equipage, &c. from the Protestant clergyman, being the only person possessed of such articles in the parish. The generality possess robust and vigorous constitutions; and, until the late fall in the price of their agricultural products, occasioned by the return of peace, appeared singularly cheerful and happy.

The road from Thomastown to New Ross, just within the boundary of Wexford, is by much the finest drive in the county of Kilkenny; exhibiting a beautiful succession of well-wooded glens and vales, watered by the Nore, on its way to form an union with the Barrow. INISTIAGE, pleasantly seated upon the river, is the first town: near it is *Woodstock*, the handsome mansion of William Tighe, Esq.

NEW ROSS is one other of those towns so commandingly situated in this island, as immediately to arrest the

attention, and elicit the admiration, of the traveller. The noble Barrow, just enlarged by the Nore, runs at its foot, from thence flowing on to the harbour of Waterford. The approach is by a long and handsome wooden *Bridge*, inferior only, and very similar to, one at the last-mentioned place, which was constructed by the same architect. This is a thriving town, and one of the staple ports for the exportation of wool. It gives title of Earl to the family of Gore: the magistrates are a sovereign, deputy, recorder, bailiff, and town-clerk: and it sends one member to parliament. The *Charter-School* educates 60 boys. Archdall records a *Crouched Friary* here, "built on the summit of an hill in the town:" but that "one of the friars having killed a principal inhabitant, the whole body of the people arose, put the friars to death, and totally destroyed the friary.—The monastery of St. Saviour, for conventual franciscans, was erected on the site of the first foundation by Sir John Devereux: the east end of the building is now the *Parish-Church*."

The country for a considerable distance, going from New Ross to Waterford, consists of vale and gentle uplands, industriously cultivated; but it is bare of trees nearly the whole way to that busy city. Gradually, the soil becomes barren, except in particular spots, but is still under cultivation wherever cultivation is possible. The cabins by the way-side are mostly of the very worst description; and the children scarcely appear to possess an article of regular clothing.

The southern road from New Ross to the sea coast at Fethard, intersects, at the distance of a few miles, the parish of WHITECHURCH, where is a hill, called *Slievekelter*, on which a body of 30,000 Irish insurgents encamped in 1798. On this occasion, Philip Roach, a fanatic priest, the commander of the rebel force, dispatched a mandate to the Rev. James Doyle, the Roman-catholic clergyman of the parish, commanding

him and his flock, on pain of fire and sword, to repair to the camp; an order which, the worthy minister had the courage to disobey: and it was mainly owing to the same individual's truly Christian example and exertions, that no outrage of magnitude on person or property took place within the bounds of his pastoral influence.

The ruins of *Dunbrody Abbey* occur in the adjoining parish of KILLESK. This abbey was founded in 1182, by Harvey de Montemaurisco, to whom Earl Strongbow had committed the command of the English forces when he found it necessary to repair to Henry II. to lay his Irish conquests at the monarch's feet. It was on the return of Strongbow, that, in consequence of a dispute with that chieftain, Montemaurisco quitted the army, and retained but a small portion (the present parish of Killesk) of the lands at first allotted to him, on which to erect his religious establishment. Here he settled monks of the Cistercian order; and taking, the cowl, became himself the first abbot. The remains of this extensive building exhibit a scene combining the awful with the picturesque. The interior walls of the church are nearly entire: on each side the chancel are three chapels, vaulted and groined: the great aisle is divided into three parts by a double row of arches, supported by square piers; the insides of which arches have a moulding springing from beautiful consoles. The tower, rather low in proportion to the rest of the buildings, is supported by a noble arch: the cloisters appear to have been spacious, but their ruins alone remain: and some other ruinous walls indicate where the hall, refectory, dormitory, &c. stood. The west window, of uncommon form, is entire: the door beneath it was actually magnificent, having been adorned with open fillagree-work, cut in the stone, and highly raised from its surface. In a nich within is an inscription to the memory of an ecclesiastic, beneath which was for-

merly a handsome sarcophagus; but the latter was some time since broken to pieces, under the idea that it contained hidden treasure. There are remains of several *Castles* in the same parish; of which, *Buttermilk Castle*, built on the edge of the Barrow for the protection of the fishery, and for curing the fish taken in that part of the river belonging to the abbey, is the most curious.

The Barrow runs nearly due north and south along the western skirts of Whitechurch, and Killesk, until, at *Duncannon Fort*, it assumes the name of the harbour of Waterford. Above that fortress, it is indiscriminately denominated the Barrow, the Suir, and the Waterford river; but in fact it is by the junction of the Barrow and Suir, properly so called, assisted by the waters of the Nore, that the harbour of Waterford is formed. At *Ballyhack Quay*, higher up the river than the fort, is a good anchorage ground, where ships ride securely in any weather; and, about a mile northward of Duncannon, at King's Bay, an inlet and gravelly strand, Lord Spenser Chichester, who has a seat near called *Harriot Lodge*, has built a pier for the protection of boats.

The rock on which Duncannon Fort stands forms a creek in the river, within which there is a pier, accessible to vessels of 100 tons burthen at high tide and in fine weather. The fort is built, like Dunbrody Abbey, of a granite found in a quarry near Ballyhack: it was erected about 1588, to protect Waterford from any attempt of the Spaniards, whose famed invincible Armada was at that period a source of alarm to every coast surrounding the British Isles. It stands on the flat surface of the precipitous rock mentioned, which overlooks the harbour, and is at the present moment a strong military station, under the charge of a Governor and Fort-Major. The Governor's House, and the Chapel, are small, but neat; and the Barracks are well-built. Cromwell saw Duncannon; but, conscious of its strength, invested it for a short time, and withdrew: and it might

probably have baffled all the attempts of his son-in-law Ireton, to whom he left the conclusion of the war, had not its commandant, in consequence of the surrender of Waterford, which seemed to nullify his own efforts, capitulated on the 14th of August, 1650. In 1690, it was garrisoned by the adherents of James II.; but on its summons by King William's army, seconded by the appearance of 16 hostile frigates in the harbour, the garrison surrendered, James having previously left the fortress for France.—The village of Duncannon joins the Fort, and owes its support chiefly to the military stationed there, and to the produce of a few fishing boats. It gives the title of Viscount to the family of Ponsonby, now Earls of Bessborough.

BALLYHACK, where is the quay before mentioned, is a fishing and market-town, supported by the shipping that anchor in the river, a few fishing boats, and a trifling trade in corn and pigs for the Waterford merchants. Here is the only *Church* in the union of Killesk, which is in a state of repair. It stands on an eminence over the river: upon its rebuilding, in 1788, the late Marquis of Donegal contributed liberally toward defraying the expence. Its single bell was the gift of Lord Spencer Chichester; who also aided the building of a handsome Roman-catholic chapel at *Ramsgrange*.

The general occupation of the people of this district is agriculture: there is no established manufacture of any article, if we except that of straw bonnets, which is very common with the females throughout the county of Wexford, and serves at least to secure them a neat head-dress for Sundays and holidays. But the females also assist the male inhabitants of this, and many other parts, by their labours in most departments of husbandry: here they not only dig potatoes and reap corn, but are very frequently seen driving the plough and the cart. Potatoes and milk are the usual food of the peasantry; but on Sundays the better sort have pork, and oaten

bread in summer and harvest time. Upon the whole, as their contiguity to the sea also affords them opportunities of procuring fish, as the tithes of four-fifths of the district merge in the rents, which are very moderate, and as the proprietor is resident among them, their situation must be considered as more than commonly fortunate.

FETHARD, formerly a town of some note, is now much decayed; but parts of its ancient walls, and some of its gates, remain: and it is still governed by a sovereign, vice-sovereign, recorder, portrieve, and town-clerk. Its *Castle* stands on a point of land, which forms the south-west entrance of Bannow bay. This building has been greatly altered and modernised; the original entrance, doors, and windows, much enlarged; and the outside covered with plaster. The stairs in one part are in the thickness of the wall. The round tower, at one angle, which is strongly and elegantly built, remains in its ancient state: its projecting crown and battlements are supported by brackets; and there is an opening all round, by which missiles and arrows might be showered upon an enemy. In 1649, this castle surrendered to Cromwell.

Five miles from Fethard, and situated at the extremity of a long neck of land which assists to form the harbour of Waterford, appears an ancient circular building, called *Hook Tower*, now used as a lighthouse, but whose application to this purpose is of modern date. Tradition ascribes this structure to a Rose Macrue, sister of Earl Strongbow, but with less probability than it gives the erection of the walls of New Ross to the same lady. The story may however be correct, so far as regards the era of its construction; for, though it is of low form, and the diameter pretty considerable, yet it tapers upwards—an accidental distinction very probably—but one sufficient to render it unlike the *Danish Tower of Reginald* at Waterford, and the *Norwegian*

Nidi, though some antiquarians think it may possibly have been built by the Danes. It is founded on a rock, whose summit is pretty considerably elevated above the marine surges, and which shelves into smaller rocks on one side, and is faced by a precipice on the other. The ascent to the top is by a staircase in the thickness of the walls, whose strength is still immense.

Nearer to Fethard, on the same peninsular projection of land, stands *Slade Castle*, said to have been constructed so late as the seventeenth century, and evidently for the purpose of protecting *Slade Bay*. It is in excellent preservation, and now serves as a magazine. The inhabitants of the little village of SLADE support themselves by fishing.

To the left of the road we have been traversing from New Ross, lie Clonmines and Tintern, neither of which must be passed unnoticed.

CLONMINES is governed by a portrieve. The family of Cavanagh, descended from the Mac Morroghs, Kings of Leinster, founded an *Abbey* here in 1385: i. e. 10 years before they surrendered the sovereignty of the parts they yet retained to Richard II., in lieu of an annual pension of 80 marks, which was continued to them till the reign of Henry VIII. This religious establishment was once very extensive; but remains of the church only are now to be seen, together with the foundations of the cloisters, and one row of their highly ornamented arches. The western window was evidently very fine; its material is red granite, but it now looks white, from being covered with a moss of the latter colour. Of the same stone are the architrave of the west door, the arches of the cloisters, and a monument within the church. The entire building was surrounded by walls, and well capable of defence: vestiges of a portcullis are to be seen in an outward gate.


TINTERN, of itself, is nowise remarkable; but it contains remains of a noble *Abbey*, of the foundation of

which Archdall gives the following account. "William, Earl of Pembroke, being in great danger and peril at sea, made a vow to found an abbey in that place where he should first arrive in safety, and this was the bay of Tintern. He religiously performed his vow, dedicated his abbey to the Virgin Mary, and settled a convent of Cistercian monks here, whom he brought from Tintern Abbey in the county of Monmouth, and granted them large possessions near the river Bann." The abbey, formerly much larger than at present, was converted into a dwelling-house by Vesey Colclough, Esq. who retained only the Gothic contour of the building, but surrounded it with well executed walls and battlements in the ancient style, which already begin to look like parts of the original structure. Under the fostering patronage of that gentleman's successor, the late John Colclough, Esq., Tintern set an example to the neighbouring country in comfortably slated farm-houses, with plantations around them, &c. which has not been without its effect.

On quitting New Ross for Wexford, our departure was delayed by an untoward incident. Our chaise-horses, we were informed, were out "setting potatoes;" but the vehicle, it was engaged, would be ready to start in a quarter of an hour. When that time had about thrice passed, our enquiries were met by accounts of the arrival of a messenger from the field, with intelligence that "*one* of the horses was coming in the cart." The chaise now, therefore, appeared in the street, fronting the inn; but, not a little to our chagrin, another hour passed away, without bringing even the single horse accompanied by its agricultural incumbrance. All complaints were vain. The animal announced at last entered the yard: at which, the post-boy, who had not before been perceived, came out in apparent bustle; but what was our astonishment, when, instead of harnessing the horse that had arrived to the chaise, by way of somewhat

toward furthering the journey, his haste was seen all at once to subside upon inspecting one of the hind wheels, which he began deliberately to take off in order to replace it with another. This was enough to weary patience itself; but remonstrances were lost upon all the several persons to whom they were addressed. At length, the second horse came in sight; and, after *two hours and a half* thus passed in vexing expectation, both animals were attached to the vehicle, and we set out. All this was naturally thought a very sufficient specimen of "Posting in Ireland;" but our farce of "Delays and Blunders" was not even to end here:—scarcely were three miles accomplished by the already wearied steeds, when the farther *discovery* was made by the sagacious post-boy, exactly previous to our reaching a blacksmith's shed by the way-side, that one of the horses wanted a new shoe. We hope our readers will not suspect us of the traveller's propensity to exaggerate, when we proceed to assure them, that both the shoe and nails required, were to be *made* by the blacksmith while we sat motionless in the carriage, and consequently that at least another hour was thus inevitably wasted. To our great satisfaction, we at length reached the place of our immediate destination, having passed only the post-town of TACHMON on our way, which possesses nothing remarkable. The road leading however through a part of the union of ADAMSTOWN, we may notice whatever is most worthy of observation within the bounds of that parochial district.

On the right, at a short distance from the road, is the singular rock called *Carrick-Burn*, which is in fact a mountain of flint-stone, of small base, but whose altitude may be about 3000 feet above the level of the sea: it is visible at the distance of many miles, and in all directions; and from it the coast of Wales is distinctly seen on a clear day. Near the foot of this stupendous rock, are the ruins of *Scullabogue Barn*, in which, horrid to



relate, 195 Protestants were burned by the insurgents of 1798.

The remainder of the parish of Adamstown is easily described, as there is "neither town, village, inn, nor gentleman's seat" in it. But it should not be omitted, that the present incumbent, the Rev. Edward Barton, (who in right of this living is Archdeacon of Ferns) has built a handsome *Church*, and a large commodious *Glebe-House*, four stories high, with an adjoining square of offices. Yet nearly the entire population of the district are Roman-catholic; the families of that persuasion amounting to almost 400, while those of the Protestant faith do not exceed 14. The Roman-catholic chapels are four in number, and there are two parish-priests. Education, throughout the parish, is at a very low ebb; for though all are willing to learn, the popish school-masters here are but little qualified to teach; and though the Reverend Archdeacon "could say much, and would be willing to do much, in this matter," yet, "circumstanced as he is, without a single resident gentleman in his district, he has no co-operation, and no influence."

The neighbouring parish of KILLEGNY is literally without objects of interest upon its surface; yet the statistical data honestly submitted to the world in the "Survey," by its present incumbent, should meet the eye of every philanthropist in the three kingdoms; for unless such facts, so supported by the testimony of resident witnesses, are widely known to the friends of humanity, their existence might very rationally be questioned.—"The number of families who pay tithes, is 311; the number of those who are too poor, on account of rack-rent, 23;—total, 334; of these only 16 are Protestant.—Except very few, who have old leases not yet expired, the people are in general most miserably poor; as the estate of one gentleman extends almost over the whole union, where rents and duties

combined are exorbitant. The food is potatoes alone, or at best potatoes with herrings or buttermilk; their dress generally rags; their appearance generally pallid, yet not much subject to disorders, except the ague, which prevails every spring and summer.—The poorer classes are industrious and quiet in general; not however averse to insurrection, if opportunity should occur: they are in extreme subjection to the priests, and attend chapel in all weathers alike.—There are two Roman-catholic chapels. There is no Protestant chapel; but one church, situated on the outland of the union, and in the wildest part of it; surrounded by a bog; with the road to it not passable in winter, except along the tops of ditches, for footmen. There is neither glebe, nor nor glebe-house. Before the time of the present incumbent, the landlord was bestowed (was exempted from) the tithe of his demesne of above 500 acres; and the richer any one was, the less he paid in proportion to the real value: the rule has, however, in a great measure been inverted.*—The houses in the union are in general wretched cabins of clay and thatch. The highest rent for the best land, £2. 7s. &c.—but it must be observed, that besides the rent of the great estate, the tenants are subject to the following:—a fine, of at least

* “The rule is generally to give the tithes cheapest to the richest men. Thus, in a parish contiguous to that of Gorey, a farmer, who might have influence in raising opposition, has a lease of his tithe for a shilling an acre for between 2 and 300 acres of the most productive land in the parish, while others pay three or four shillings an acre for far less productive land. Many other instances also are well-known to the writer; these it is supposed, the clergy may not be willing to avow.” “To fix the rate of tithes, during his incumbency, by an acreable charge, for the encouragement of his parishioners, the incumbent proposed, some years ago, to divide the sum actually received by him for the tithes of his parish by the number of acres in it, to make the quotient the charge on each acre, and to set leases of his tithes to all his parishioners, during his incumbency, at that rate. The proposal was joyfully received; but it was declined by the landlord, who would, if he consented, be obliged to pay his proportion for his great demesne.”—*Same Work.*

half a year's rent, as fees to the agent; duty-fowl for the consumption of his household; great requisitions of work, as often as they are called, for agriculture on his demesne of above 500 acres; the drawing of turf, coals, limestone, &c.; the spinning of flax for the landlord's family; and various perquisites to the agent, who has only a nominal salary, and must be paid in various ways by the tenants. To estimate the value of these (fines, perquisites, &c.) is difficult; but most of the tenants are thus retained in wretched poverty, unable ever to pay up their rent, and constantly in the power of the landlord, who, if they give the least offence, can drive them from their land.—Among the observations which might be made, is, that the Protestant religion declines among the lower classes; as the people of that description are not encouraged, they are apt to emigrate when opportunity serves, and, to gain favour with the great majority, to turn Roman-catholics. A Protestant, male or female, married to a Roman-catholic, invariably adopts the Roman-catholic religion.—If all duties of work, fowl, &c. to the landlord and agent were abolished, so that the tenants would have only a determinate rent to pay, they would feel their properties more secure, would have more inducement to cultivate their lands, would improve their circumstances, would appear more respectable in their own opinions, would be more enabled to have their children taught, and thus would improve the rising generation." The author makes two other remarks worthy notice; viz. that the roads throughout the union "are seldom well repaired, presentments (for that purpose) seeming to be *jobs* for money to pay rents:" and that "in the rebellion of 1798, no Protestant was killed in the union of Killegny, nor house burned, although the case was widely different in all the parishes around." This last circumstance is ascribed to "the humane exertions of Mr. Thomas Rogers, the priest of this parish,

who maintained the family of Mr. Samuel Francis, the then rector, when that family must otherwise have starved; and to the exertions also of Mr. Jeremiah Fitzhenry, a Roman-catholic gentleman who went with the rebels, but took no command, and used influence only in saving the lives and properties of the Protestants."

The main road from New Ross to Eniscorthy intersects the miserable parish just described: it of course presents no features deserving farther remark; but it should be noticed that, on leaving the former town to pursue this track, one of the finest views in Leinster is obtained from the summit of a hill over the vale of the Barrow. The river is here of noble breadth, and its windings delightfully picturesque: the more distant hills, and the tower of an old castle on the right bank, contribute to the beauty and interest of the prospect.

WEXFORD, the shire and assize town, situate upon the river Slaney, which here empties itself into the ocean, was founded by the Danes, who called it *Wessford*, from whence it derived its modern name. It sends one member to parliament; is governed by a mayor, mayor of the staple, recorder, two bailiffs, and a town-clerk; and gives title of earl to the family of Talbot, Earls of Shrewsbury in Great Britain. The haven is large; but it is a *bar* harbour, and no vessels can reach the town that draw above 10 feet water; all such being obliged to load and unload in a creek about three miles distant, where indeed there is sufficient depth of water, but no shelter from the prevalent southwest winds. The entrance to the harbour is defended by two forts; that on the north side is called *Fort Margaret*, and that on the south *Fort Roselain*. The chief article of export is corn, particularly barley and malt. Provisions of all kinds are here very plentiful and cheap, but more especially the finest wild-fowl, from the month of November to May. It is also celebrated for oysters of a peculiar delicacy and flavour.—The

first English forces which set foot in Ireland, landed at Wexford.

There are some remains of a priory in this town, called *Selkser Abbey*, of which the Danes are said to have been the founders, and the Roche family its patrons and munificent benefactors. The remnant of the church shews it to have been plainly constructed, of a blackish stone: the tower in the centre is large, much decayed at the top, the arches which support it resting on plain square piers, with the exception of one which is octagonal.—The ruined *Church of St. Mary* is small, but seems to have been of excellent workmanship. It is remarkable for its elegant arches, supported by round columns, the cases and capitals of which are of a peculiar construction, and the shafts of hewn stone. The windows are quite plain.

To the south, south-east, and south-west of the town of Wexford extend the baronies known by the names of FORTH and BARGY, whose inhabitants are in language, manners, customs, and minds, a race peculiar and distinct from all the other natives of the island. These districts are, by the peasantry of Wexford in general, denominated the “English baronies;” and the current tradition ascribes their origin to the earliest colony from the sister country, which settled here in the reign of Henry II.; but we rather favour the opinion, that they were a Saxon tribe who migrated hither in the fifth century. The transmission of these peculiarities to their existing descendants, may be accounted for by supposing that, as they occupied the lands of which the original Irish were dispossessed, but which comprehended so very small a territory, they were compelled to live secluded, dared not to mingle with the late and jealous occupiers, and of course could require no knowledge of the habits of the people among whom they were planted, nor of their dialect—a dialect, of which to the present day they do not understand so much as a word. The seclusion

which a regard to safety first taught them, the pride arising from conscious superiority probably instructed them to preserve, when the necessity for it was past; and thus, though the natural increase of population obliged them gradually to extend their settlements, they carried with them in their progress their native tongue and habits, still keeping within the limits of these baronies and as near as possible to the first seats of their ancestors. Owing to this mode of conduct it may be, that they to this day speak the language in which Chaucer, the Anglo-Saxon poet of the fourteenth century, wrote; a fact, which the author of the Survey of one of the parishes in Forth conceives himself "warranted to state from the following circumstance. He was in a field on his farm reading Ogle's edition of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, and near to labourers who were conversing in this to him unknown tongue. It chanced that he threw his eyes towards some words, that he fancied might resemble those they were repeating, if sounded: he arrested their attention whilst he read the lines. He cannot however describe the surprise, pride, and pleasure which these creatures manifested at being able to understand what was in a "book." They were fully competent to interpret, explain, and even to translate every line and passage; and that more to his satisfaction than did Dryden or Johnson." But, notwithstanding that these people use their vernacular Saxon, (which this dialect should in strictness of speech be called), in their intercourse with each other, they are very tolerable masters of modern English, though they do not adopt it without some particularities. Their frequent mode of salutation is one of these: on passing each other they will ask—"is it long since?"—meaning, has the time since we met appeared tedious to you—and the reply is couched in artless but kind courtesy, "yea. joi." That many of them retain in their features a strong resemblance to the South Welsh, some of whose names they

also have among them, confirms the tradition of *their* descent from the original adventurers in Strongbow's time; for they, it is well known, were in great part natives of Wales; but, as the language of these is, with little difference, that of the other inhabitants of the baronies, it would seem that they acquired it by intermixture with their more numerous predecessors in the fifth century.

There is not perhaps in any country a more respectable yeomanry, than the baronies of Forth and Bargy almost every where present. Their cabins, partly of stone and partly of mud, are always well built, most neatly thatched, and as comfortable within, and as white without, as cleanliness and lime-wash can make them. Their offices are equally neat and commodious, and frequently so numerous, that they are said to have houses for every purpose. But the inhabited hut is here clearly distinguishable by its brick chimney, and glass windows; and they not unfrequently have painted iron gates to their little courts. In every other respect, the difference is marked between these and the other peasantry of the country in general. Never does the traveller in this district meet with any person barefooted, and but very rarely even bare-headed: the females all possess hats or bonnets, chiefly of straw, the product of the soil, and manufactured by themselves. The latter are allowed to be very handsome, amiable, and correct in their conduct; and as they are most industriously employed on working days, their little vanities of dress on Sundays and holidays, which it may be acknowledged are somewhat too extravagantly displayed, must be forgiven by all but the rigidly censorious. In personal and in domestic cleanliness both sexes, are deserving of every praise; and in a salubrious climate, as this must upon the whole be considered, (though some parts are subject to agues,) the general health is the unfailing consequence. The food of the district is as superior as all

its other peculiarities; the poorest seldom dining without either flesh meat or fish: oatmeal is rarely used; but barley-bread and milk forms the ordinary breakfast, and potatoes and milk the usual closing meal, of the day. Fuel alone is rather scarce; and they are obliged to adopt bean stalks and furze along with their English coal, which is imported by way of Wexford.

The land in general being fertile to an unusual degree, is one grand source, co-operating with their industry and sobriety, of these various blessings. Marl is found upon almost every farm; and is readily discovered, at whatever depth, by a certain weed that never fails to grow over its bed. Beside which, the great extent of coast is productive of vast quantities of sea-weed, to be used as manure. Industry is here the prevailing feature: men and women, old and young, are seen working in the fields together, from day-break till sun-set; except at noon, when they both dine and *sleep*, taking what is called their "entitle" for about two hours. At this time, their doors are closed; and a stillness, like that which prevails at midnight in other parts, is here observed at mid-day. They work to a late hour in the evening at home, chiefly at the manufacture of coarse linen and woollen cloths for their own consumption, to make up for this indulgence. In several parts, they also retain the old custom, still common in Wales, of dressing the graves of their departed relations and friends with flowers and evergreens, at stated times of the year, when they will kneel and pray for some time over them.

The number of *Castles*, that have been erected on the coasts of the connected baronies of Forth and Bargy, is a sufficient ground for presuming that these districts were as much distinguished for fertility and other natural advantages formerly as they are at the present time. These buildings are generally single insulated towers but in some instances there appear to have been four or

such towers, forming so many angles, connected by high walls, altogether enclosing a pretty considerable area. The general supposition as to the origin of these castles is, that they were erected to secure the possessions of the English invaders in the time of Henry II.—a supposition which carries with it every mark of probability. If, however, they afforded protection and security to the adventurers of that period against the dispossessed Irish, they could confer neither upon their owners against the artillery of Cromwell; and that successful general, having conquered this entire country, bestowed the whole in debentures upon his army. Some of these castles have been converted into dwelling houses, with modern roofs and windows; while others are permitted to retain their original air of feudal grandeur: with very few exceptions, they, together with the estates attached to them, are in the hands of the descendants from Cromwell's adherents to this day; and are highly prized, as conferring consequence on the proprietors, who add the word "castle" as a finale to the ancient names of their abodes, as Hill Castle, Bargo Castle, Killiane Castle, Johnstown Castle, &c. &c.

In the parish of CARNE (barony of Forth), and near its termination in the most south-eastern point of the island, called Carnsore Point, is a ruin of a very ancient Chapel, known by the name of *St. Vaugh's*, standing in a cemetery, wherein none but the bodies of persons drowned by shipwreck have been interred for many years. From its rude architecture, it appears to be of great antiquity. The *Castle of Cloeast*, a very fine specimen of the kind just described, being between 70 and 80 feet in height, and in high preservation, is also in this parish, standing on the property of the Waddy family.

The well-known *Light-house* on the *Tuscar Rock*, which is situated about seven miles from the south-east extremity of the coast of Wexford, was completed on

the 14th of June, 1815, by the "Corporation for preserving and improving the Port of Dublin," (whose duties extend to the management of the lights around the coast of Ireland), and has proved of inestimable utility in the salvation of property and life upon this dangerous shore. The Tuscar Rock is about 300 feet in length, 150 in breadth, and its most elevated part 30 feet above the level of the sea at high-water mark. On its base, which runs shelving into the water, the surges rise as on an inclined plane; and though the summit is so considerably raised above the level of the tide, it is constantly submerged by the wintry storms. This rock is justly styled the Eddystone of Ireland. The light-house was commenced by laying horizontal beams firmly connected to it by iron cramps: on this a platform was raised, and huts erected to contain and shelter the workmen. Scarcely were they lodged here, when a West-Indiaman, bound for Liverpool, with 107 souls and a valuable cargo on board, went to pieces in the night on the base of the rock; and the crew, excepting four, were raised by these workmen to the summit by means of ropes, and received into their rude habitations. About six weeks after this accident, on the night of the 18th of October, the sea was agitated with such unusual violence, that some of the men in the huts ran, terror-stricken, undressed, to the highest point of the rock; but before the others could escape, a surge, striking the foundations of their dwellings, swept the whole away, with their inmates in their beds. Those who had gained the point, were miraculously preserved by clinging to it, while the waves beat over them; but they were compelled to remain in this perilous situation, from the Sunday morning, four o'clock, when the storm happened, to the Wednesday following; till which time, the surge was too violent to allow of any vessels approaching them. So awful was the general impression made by this catastrophe, that a considerable time elapsed before

any workmen could be again induced to approach the rock. But at length the work was resumed: Smeaton's plan of the Eddystone light-house was adopted for a model: the stones were granite, raised from the rocks near Dublin; and there the whole materials of the building were fitted, previously to their being conveyed to Tuscar. Over each course of stone, was run a chain of cramps, counter-sunk, and leaded; in this way the whole was cramped: and as the iron-work is protected from the air and sea, it is not liable to become corroded. It was completed in 18 months, and cost £30,000. The building is of the usual circular form: its height, 82 feet. The illuminating apparatus is on the revolving principle: with a deep red light at intervals, caused by coloured glass, to distinguish it from others. To vessels at a distance it presents a strong light once in two minutes, being the period of revolution, and the red light at every third appearance. Two very large bells are also attached to the building, placed in the outer gallery, which are tolled by machinery in thick weather, snow, &c. when the light might not be discernible.

EXCURSION XII.

From Dublin to Kilgobbin, as described; and by Enniskerry, Powerscourt, the Dargle, Glendaloch, Rathdrum, Carysfort, Tinehaly, Clonegall, and Newtown Barry, to Enniscorthy: returning through Ferns, Gorey, Arklow, Wicklow, and Bray, to Dublin.

ENNISKERRY is a very picturesque and pleasant village, the first the tourist will reach by this road into the county of Wicklow. It stands on the slope of a steep hill; a site which adds to its salubrity, and renders it frequented by invalids. There are some objects peculiarly worthy attention in this neighbourhood, which we shall describe in the order they occur at the head of this chapter.

Powerscourt, the seat of Lord Powerscourt, is justly celebrated for the beauty of its demesne and the surrounding prospects; but the house itself, though a handsome modern edifice, possesses no very remarkable feature. The cieling of the hall by which it is entered, is rather singularly ornamented with small square compartments, bounded by a cornice of shells in stucco. The saloon, and best apartments, are upon the first floor.

The celebrated *Water-fall*, though included in the demesne, is five miles distant from the seat, and is arrived at by following the windings of a small stream, which takes its course through a valley embosomed in wild and mountainous scenery. The road runs on one side of this stream, but the opposite bank, which rises into an acclivity, forming a part of Lord Powerscourt's deer-park, affords the finest approach to the fall. The valley expands at length into a beautiful amphitheatre,

surrounded by wooded slopes; and into it, down an almost perpendicular rock of great height, tumbles the cascade. It is fed by a stream from the mountains above, which, after meandering awhile, issues from a small thickly-wooded dell, and then rushes down the declivity: it rebounds at bottom amidst broken rocks, and terminates in the stream of the valley before-mentioned. The body of water that constantly falls is very considerable, except in seasons of more than ordinary drought: but nearly, at all times, it forms, with the surrounding scenery, a spot of no common beauty and interest.

Powerscourt Cascade is a fall of the river *Dargle*, which confers its name on the enchanting glen, through which, nearer Bray, a town upon the coast, it flows. The country intervening between that town and the glen, possesses the peculiar character usually observed on the skirts of a mountainous district: it is hilly and picturesque, without displaying any feature of wildness or sublimity. The valleys and sides of the hills are for the most part covered with wood, and numerous villas present themselves to the view. The scenery of the *Dargle* may be considered as intermediate between this, and the more romantic grandeur of the mountainous region. Tracing upward for some distance (from Bray) the course of the river, the spot is arrived at where it emerges from a deep chasm or glen, the precipitous sides of which are clothed even to their summits with a thick foliage, interrupted only by the protrusion here and there of vast masses of rock, which hang their abrupt forms over the valley beneath. 'This is the *Dargle*, in its general appearance; and the same interesting character of scenery is preserved throughout the extent of the glen, which is considerably more than a mile in length. Entering the majestic woods to the north of the stream, we follow a path which has been cut through them; and may enjoy the coolness of the

protecting shade, and pause occasionally at the different openings in the foliage, to contemplate the beautiful and varied views which here present themselves. The path, gradually ascending through the wood, conducts at length to the summit of the hill which forms the northern barrier of the valley. At this point, a huge mass of rock, projecting abruptly forward, forms a perpendicular precipice, 200 feet at least in the descent, which has received the name of the *Lover's Leap*. The most vivid powers of painting to the imagination, must fail adequately to depicture a scene of such romantic and interesting beauty, as Nature here spreads before the view. The eye, from this elevated site, comprehends every part of the deep glen below; catches at intervals the waters of the stream, rushing impetuously over rocks displaced from the cliffs above, and contrasting their silvery foam with the dark foliage of the overhanging woods; traces, to the left, the glen, gradually expanding into an open, champaign country, bounded by the azure expanse of the sea, and to the right, embraces a beautiful landscape, in which are seen the picturesque mansion and demesne of Powerscourt, surmounted in rear by the lofty and rugged eminences which form the interior of the county. An interesting feature in the prospect from this point, is the elevated peak of a mountain called the *Great Sugar-Loaf*, rising over the woods which clothe the opposite precipitous side of the valley, and seeming to look in pride upon the comparatively diminutive objects around it. Nor is the eye the only sense gratified by the loveliness of this view. The roaring of the stream in its rocky channel below, comes to the ear, at this distance, a mellowed and musical sound, harmonizing well with the general character of the scenery, and heightening the emotions, which its beauty must excite in every mind but capable of appreciating it.—Still, it must be admitted, that the characteristic features of the Dargle are of frequent occurrence

in all mountainous districts; and that its principal distinction lies in the grandeur of the scale on which they are here exhibited. The valley of the Mouse, near Lanark, and the glen between Roslin Castle and Leswade, a few miles from Edinburgh, greatly resemble it:—a description of the latter spot, as every lover of poetry will recollect, occurs in the exquisite little episode of Rosabelle, in the Lay of the Last Minstrel.

The woods of the Dargle consist chiefly of oak and ash; and, from the growth and size of the trees, they form a valuable property to their possessors. The lands to the north of the glen belong to Lord Powerscourt: those of Tinnahinch, to the south, were the property of the late eloquent and estimable patriot, Mr. Grattan. The beautiful seat of the latter gentleman is a little beyond one end of the glen; and on the summit of the rocks, in a charming spot on the same side, is a pretty rustic cottage, built by Mrs. Grattan, and which, until that lady fell into ill-health, was the frequent elegant rendezvous of her friends, who came to partake the beauties of the surrounding scene.—The Dargle indeed is seldom solitary: parties, many of them from Dublin, though that city is 11 miles distant, will generally be encountered by the visitor, engaged in the contemplation of the same objects by which he is delighted; and their presence gives an animation to the scene, which adds to the pleasures it is itself so calculated to afford.

In a plantation in rear of *St. Valeri*, a most pleasing and romantically situated seat of Miss Walker, (about a quarter of a mile distant from the Dargle), is another specimen of the ancient stone *Cross*, so frequently met with in Ireland. Miss Plumptre, who visited at *St. Valeri* in the summer of 1815, informs the public in her ‘Narrative,’ that this cross “was brought from a glen at some distance, and stood originally in the centre of the little paddock, round which runs the plantation. But it became so much an object of devotion among

the neighbourhood, that paths without number were made over the grass to get at it; and Mr. Walker (brother to Miss Walker before-mentioned) found it expedient to remove it into a situation where the devotions might be paid without trespassing on his grounds: it stands now so close to the road, though just within the fence of the plantation, that any one may kneel down and say a prayer *en-passant*, without turning a step out of the way.”—“ In another part of the grounds (continues this lady) is a holy *Well*, close by which stands a bush stuck over with little morsels of rag, votive offerings to the saint who presides over the spot, though I really do not know who the saint is. I believe the water cures all ailments. Mr. Walker has made a gate close to the well, to give free access to it; a sort of little parterre is planted with shrubs and flowers, having stone seats ranged about; and he has chained a drinking-cup by the side of the well, to furnish the means of drinking to any one who wishes it. Some of the neighbourhood are rather scandalized at his having giving so much encouragement to the *Romans*, (for so the Catholics are universally called,) he being himself a Protestant of the Church of England: but, I truly believe, humouring to a certain extent the prejudices in which they have been educated, and shewing such lenity toward them, is by far the most likely way to lead this class of people to renounce their errors. Conciliate their regard by kindness, and a vast step is made toward leading them to adopt your opinions.”

The same authoress thus narrates an excursion from this spot to *Loch Hela*, commonly pronounced *Luggelaw*.—“ It is about nine or ten miles from St. Valeri. After passing the finely wooded and cultivated country about Powerscourt, the road ascends to a great height among the ocean of mountains which occupy so large a part of the county of Wicklow; and the rest of the way lies entirely among these mountains. After going up

and down them for about five miles, coasting round the base of the great sugar-loaf, at length, in descending a pretty steep acclivity at a sharp angle, appears far beneath what looks like a sheet of very black mud. This is the lake: but a small part of the expanse is, however, then seen, and none of the cultivated scenery around it: nothing but dark and naked rocks, which throw such a shade over the water as to deprive it in great measure of its aqueous appearance, and give it the semblance of mere slime.

“ In proceeding onwards down the descent, which winds round a high rock, a different scene presents itself. These wilds are the receptacle of a vast quantity of game, particularly grouse; and in this recess among the mountains, upon the borders of this lake, has Mr. Peter Latouche, the proprietor of *Belle Vue* and the *Glen of the Downs*, (hereafter mentioned,) made a very pretty shooting-box. The rocks on the side of the lake down which lies the road are granite, sloping away considerably from the water. These are now entirely planted; the trees are in a very thriving state; and a road lies through the plantations to the house, which is at the other end of the valley. The lake terminates some way before the valley closes; in this part stands the house; and the whole space is occupied with meadow-grounds and plantations. The valley closes with a vast amphitheatre of rocks, down which pours a water-fall, but not a very ample one, forming at the foot a little stream which, winding through the meadows, runs into the lake. The opposite side of the valley to that on which runs the road is bounded by slate-rocks, which rise very abruptly above the lake. Such is the beautiful spot which art, improving on natural advantages, has formed in the midst of this wild country. I can conceive no greater surprise than any one would experience on being led to it, not having the least idea of what he was to expect. Though the water, on descending farther into the valley, loses

much of the black slimy appearance which is at first so striking, yet from the local circumstances it always retains a very dark hue. Such is the rocky chasm which it occupies, that in the centre of the lake it is unfathomable. This circumstance, combined with its inclosed situation, and the dark slate rocks rising on one side directly above it, sufficiently accounts for its Ache-
rontic tint: when taken out of the lake it looks clear and fine. There is a boat, if any one chooses to row upon the water; but the navigation is bad, and the lake exposed to sudden squalls of wind through the entrance, which are dangerous when they occur, so that not many people venture upon it: indeed it is so small, that the whole surrounding country is just as effectually seen from the shore. At the foot of the lake is a little extent of beach, of a sort of sand or gravel composed of the debris of granite rocks, with some pebbles of mica slate intermixed. Abundance of beautiful mosses were growing about.

“But it must be remembered that the borders of this lake were not always cultivated; that the whole valley was once naked, dreary, barren:—what then so natural, in the ancient times of superstition, as that this black, dark lake, surrounded with dark and barren rocks, should be fixed on as the abode of darkness, of *death*? for such was the *hela* of the Danish mythology. The lake of *kela*, or of *death*, was an appropriate title to such a spot, given probably by the Danes while they inhabited the island, and handed down from them; though this derivation is lost in the corrupted name now so generally used. I could almost doubt whether the spot is improved in lessening its wild horrors, by mingling the grand features, which must be ever unchangeable, with the milder beauties bestowed by the hand of cultivation.”

GLENDELOCH, or the *Valley of the Two Lakes*, is a spot of more than common interest to the lover of Irish

antiquities. It is 22 miles south from Dublin, and 11 north-west from Wicklow: the river Avonmore receives a stream from its lakes, and, running a course of 15 miles, through steep banks finely wooded, discharges itself into the sea at Arklow.

Anciently, Glendaloch was an episcopal see, and a tolerably populous city, until about 1214, when the see was annexed to the diocese of Dublin; and the city, memorable for its religious edifices, not only suffered by decay, but insensibly became a receptacle for out-laws and robbers. The Archbishops of Dublin could not obtain a quiet possession till 1479; in which year, on the 30th of May, a surrender was made in the cathedral of St. Patrick, Dublin, by Friar Dennis White, who had long usurped the see, in opposition to the regal authority. From this era, Glendaloch has continued a desert; and, the mountains, contracting the view on every side, and casting a melancholy gloom upon the valley, so awful, so venerable is the scene, that, even to the momentary beholder, it appears as if formed by nature for the eremitic life. And such was the situation chosen by St. Coemgene, or Kevin, who, descended from a noble family, was born A. D. 498. Being placed, at the age of seven years, under the care and tuition of Petrus, a Briton, who had passed many years in this island for his own improvement in learning, he continued with him till 510, when his parents sent him to the cell of three holy anchorites, with whom he studied a considerable time, previously to his embracing the monastic life. On assuming the cowl, he retired to these wilds, where, among other works, he wrote a life of St. Patrick; and here he founded an abbey, under the invocation of St. Peter and St. Paul. He presided as abbot and bishop for a series of years, and died on the 3rd of June, 618, having nearly completed the uncommon and venerable age of 120.

The eminent virtues, exemplary sanctity, and yet

more the miracles said to have been wrought by St. Kevin, drew multitudes from towns and cities, from ease and affluence, from the cares and avocations of civil life, and from the comforts and joys of society, to be spectators of his pious acts, and sharers in his merits, and, with him, to encounter every severity of climate and condition. This influence extended even to Britain, and induced St. Mochuorog to convey himself hither, and fix his residence in a cell on the east side of Glendaloch; where a city soon sprang up, and a seminary was founded, from whence were sent forth many saints and exemplary men, whose sanctity and learning diffused around the western world that universal light of letters and religion, which, in those earlier ages, shone so resplendent throughout this remote, and, at that time, tranquil isle, and indeed was, except by the emigration of her sons, almost confined to it. On the 3rd of June, annually, numbers, of every age and sex flock to Glendaloch, and there celebrate the festival of the still highly venerated St. Kevin.

The ruins of the *Abbey*, are situated in the bottom of the vale, and consist of two buildings parallel to each other, the larger one, on the south, being the church. At the east end of the abbey, is an arch, of extremely curious workmanship: the columns at the sides recede behind each other, and are very short, but do not diminish toward the top: the capitals are ornamented in a singular manner, most of them with human heads at the angles, and dragons or other fabulous animals at the sides: the heads have much the appearance of those in Egyptian sculpture, having large ears, long eyes, and the tresses of the hair straight: the ring-stones of the arches are indented triangularly, like the chevron of Saxon architecture; and in some parts human heads and other ornaments are included in the triangular mouldings. On the removal of some heaps of rubbish from under the ruins of this arch, a few stones beauti-

fully carved were found, appearing to have belonged to the arches, and some to the architrave of the window: the architrave is 12 inches broad, and a pannel is sunk, ornamented lozenge-wise, and an ovelo forms the lozenge, with a bead running on each side: the centre of the lozenge is decorated on one side, in bas-relief, with a knot delicately carved; the other with a flower in the centre, and mouldings corresponding with the shape of the lozenge. The half lozenge, at the bottom of the pilaster, in one is filled with a bas-relief of a human head, with a bird on each side pecking at the eye; and in the other by a dragon, twisting its head round, and the tail turned up between its legs into the mouth. Two sides of another stone, apparently the capital of a column, are both ornamented with a patera, but each in a different manner; one consists of a flower of 16 large leaves, and 15 smaller ones, relieved the eight of an inch, and the other of six leaves branching from the centre, with another leaf extending between their points.

The *Church of the Holy Trinity* stands on a rising ground, north of the abbey: in front of this church is a circular building, upon a square base, which appears to have been intended for a belfry.

The *Seven Churches*, for which Glendaloch has been many centuries remarkable, which at the present time confer a second name upon the spot, and for which it will be celebrated even when the vestiges now remaining are no more, must next be described. The entrance to the area on which these churches stand, is on the north-east side, through the ruins of a gateway, 16 feet 6 inches in length, by 16 feet in width: the arches, which are still entire, are nine feet seven inches wide, and 10 feet high; and the ring-stones, of mountain granite, are the full depth of the wall: the outside arch is composed of 24 stones, and the inside one of 27, which are two feet six inches in depth.

Of the churches, the *Cathedral* ranks as first, and owes its origin to St. Kevin, by whom it was dedicated to the patron saints of the abbey. It measures 48 feet in length, and 30 in width. But on the south side were three small windows, and at the east end was an arch 17 feet 6 inches wide, behind which was another building, 37 feet 6 inches in length, by 23 in width, with a beautiful window at the east end: on the north are two small ones, and one on the south, with a door three feet eight inches wide, communicating with a small building of 16 feet by 10. The door of the church is seven feet four inches high, three feet six inches wide at top, and three feet 10 at bottom: the jambs are composed of four courses, and a lintel at top, over which is a discharging arch: the stones are the entire depth of the walls, with a revel cut at the inside of the door, which appears to have turned on pivots: holes are cut for bars across, and iron cramps and bolts appear in some places. Several courses of this building are of hewn stone: as well as a kind of pilasters, which project from the ends of the wall to the front and rear, and measure two feet six inches in width: the wall of the building to the east, within these, is detached, and has the appearance of a more modern date.

Under a small window, at the south side of the choir, is a tomb of free-stone, ornamented: and in the cemetery stands a *Round Tower*, 110 feet high, uncommonly well built, and in fine preservation, the roof alone having suffered by time: at the base it measures 52 feet in girth, and the walls are four feet thick.

The remains of several *Crosses* may also be seen amongst these ruins; and that standing in the cemetery of this church merits particular notice, being one entire stone, 11 feet in height.

St. Kevin's Kitchen (its vulgar appellation) was undoubtedly one of the seven churches; and is still almost entire, having suffered alone in the ruin of its only

window: this was placed about eight feet from the south-east angle, and was ornamented with an architrave elegantly wrought; but, being of free-stone, it was conveyed away by the neighbouring inhabitants, and brayed to powder for domestic use. The area of this church measures 22 feet 9 inches by 15: in height it is 20 feet, and the walls are three feet six inches in thickness. At the east end is an arch, five feet three inches in width, which communicates with another building 10 feet six in length, by nine feet three in width, on the north side of which is a door two feet two inches wide, which communicates with another chapel of the same length, and seven feet nine inches in width: each of these buildings has a small window in the centre to the east: the walls are three feet thick, and both measure 12 feet in height. The foundation, with two or three courses of the building, is laid of cut mountain grit: the door is six feet eight inches high, two feet four inches wide at top, and two feet eight inches at bottom: most of the stones run through the entire thickness of the walls: the lintel is five feet eight inches in length, by eleven inches and a half in depth; and a rude cornice, projecting about five inches, and measuring four feet 10 inches long, by six inches in depth, is worked out of the same stone. A round belfry rises from the west end of the church: the entrance into it is through a square hole in the cove of the building: over which, between the cove and the roof, is a large space open to the belfry, that received its light from a small window. The height of this tower is about 45 feet: the roof, both of the church and tower, is composed of thin stones, very neatly laid, and with a very high pitch: the ridge of the roof is about 30 feet above the ground, and the double building in the rear is 20 feet. Having ascended the roof, we discover a groove cut in the east end of the larger building, which shews that this was not the original tower, but much

higher and narrower than the former: indeed, the walls of the double building are separated from those of the larger, and, though undoubtedly very ancient, yet the inferiority of the materials and workmanship evidently shews, that this work was posterior to the former, and erected by much less skilful builders.—The original round tower, there cannot be a doubt, was built a distinct structure from the church, and the latter erected so as in some measure to incorporate it: there can be no propriety in calling, with Dr. Ledwich, this *round steeple*, for such it really is, a *round tower*; for the latter denomination would serve only to confound it with a class of buildings from which it is entirely distinct, in order to support the Doctor's distinct theory.

Our Lady's Church, the most westward of the seven, and nearly opposite the cathedral, is now almost entirely in ruins; but, from the door-way and the few remains of the walls, it appears to have been built with more knowledge of the art than the other buildings. The door consists of only three courses: the lintel is five feet six inches in length, and 14 inches and a half in depth: the door is six feet four inches in height: two feet six in width at top, and two feet 10 at bottom: a kind of architrave, six inches broad, is worked round it; and in the bottom of the lintel is wrought in a cross, resembling the flyer of a stamping press. The walls are carried up with hewn stones, in general of a large size, to about the height of the door; and the remainder are of rude mountain rag-stone, but incomparably well laid. At the east end was an arch of hewn stone, exactly similar to that of the cathedral.

The *Rhefeart*, literally the 'Sepulchre of Kings,' is famous for having seven princes interred within its limits. In this church is the tomb of M'Mthuil, or O'Toole, the ancient chieftain of the neighbouring country: with the following inscription in the Irish character:—

Jesus Christ
Mile Deach Feuch Corp Re Mac Mthuil.
or
See here the resting place of the body of
King Mac Mthuil,
Who died in Christ 810.

Many others of this family are said to have been interred here, where a stone Cross, elegantly carved, is still preserved.

The *Priory of St. Saviour* commonly called the *Eastern Church*. Of this building little can be said, the foundation only remaining: but, about 15 years since, a quantity of stone, remarkably well-wrought, was discovered here: and on removing a heap of rubbish, the collection of many centuries, two clusters of columns were found, with curious emblematic decorations, which had supported a great fretted arch, composed of the before-mentioned stones, that led to the discovery.

The *Ivy Church* is situated somewhat to the westward, and has large breaches in the walls, long since overgrown with ivy. Nothing worthy of remark presents itself in this building, which is entirely unroofed.

Teampull-Na-Skellig. Situated in the recess of the south mountain, was the ancient priory of the rock, and was also called the temple of the desert, both expressive of the Irish appellation.

The celebrated *Bed of St. Kevin*, on the south side of the loch, is a cave, hewn in the solid rock, on the mountain's side, exceedingly difficult to arrive at, and terrible in the prospect; for it hangs perpendicularly, at an alarming height, over the surface of the water. At a small distance from his bed, on the same side of the mountain are to be seen the ruins of a small stone building, called *St. Kevin's Cell*.

We must now bid adieu to this once illustrious seminary, which, in the language of a late writer, "was the luminary of the western world, whence savage septs and roving barbarians derived the benefits of

knowledge, and the blessings of religion." The romantic shapes of the surrounding mountains, (many of which are covered with wood, and others which, though of surprising height, retain the liveliest verdure almost throughout the year) the winding form of the fertile valley, the lake of considerable extent, all increase our veneration. In a word, on viewing such a scene "to abstract the mind from all local emotion would be impossible if it were endeavoured, and would be foolish if it were possible. Whatever withdraws us from the power of our senses; whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings. Far from us, and from our friends, be such frigid philosophy, as may conduct us indifferent and unmoved over any ground, which has been dignified by wisdom or by virtue. That man is little to be envied whose piety will not grow warmer as he treads the ruins of Glendaloch."

From Glendaloch, one of the military roads made since 1798, over the mountainous parts of the county of Wicklow, to facilitate the passage of troops, leads through wild and desolate scenery to *Glen Malure*. Glen Malure is a valley, extending for several miles, through which runs a stream, bordered on each side with a narrow strip of meadow, above which rise rude and barren rocks: of a far different character to the Dargle, this glen exhibits a fine scene of wild and savage grandeur. The road through it is crossed by the new military way; and at the place where they intersect, *Barracks* have been erected, and, at a short distance, a good *Inn*. In the reign of Elizabeth, Glen Malure was the strong-hold of Hugh O'Birne, who so long defied the English power, and was the scene of a terrible catastrophe to a party of English troops sent against him by Lord Grey. The valley was then a complete swamp; and O'Birne and his followers,

watching their opportunity when the enemy was nearly exhausted by toiling through it, poured down upon them from the rocks among which they had themselves lain concealed, and cut to pieces the entire invading party. Several officers of distinction were among the slain; and the loss was the greater as these troops were veterans who had long experience in the wars with the natives, and were on that account selected for the service. There are some *Lead-mines* at this spot: the ore being chiefly found at a considerable height among the rocks, shafts are made at their feet to ascend them.

The outlet of Glen-Malure, proceeding to Rathdrum, is very pleasing: the valley expands, the hills gradually slope away, the river, being wooded at its banks, takes a more picturesque appearance, and its effect is heightened by a romantic bridge.

About two miles from Rathdrum, there were formerly some of the most extensive *Iron-mines* in Ireland; and which are still in existence, though scarcely more can be said, the want of fuel forming so great a bar to their being properly worked.

RATHDRUM is a small post-town upon the Ovoca, which has a Fair on the first Monday of every month for flannels, wool, and woollen cloth. There is nothing striking in the appearance of this little town or its environs; though it stands on the verge of one of the most beautiful parts of the county of Wicklow.

The part alluded to is the *Vale of Ovoca*, including the tract nearly from hence to Arklow, about 10 miles distant. About a mile from Rathdrum occur the lovely grounds of Avondale, the property of the Parnell family. The river Avonmore contributes greatly to the beauty of this spot, with its shallow stream, tumbling over broken rocks. Its banks (as says a female tourist) are sometimes fringed with close thickets of wood, sometimes with fine lawns having majestic forest-trees scattered about; in parts the dell is quite enclosed,

having only rocks, covered with ivy and rock-plants, on each side; then again it expands, forming for three miles the most varied and beautiful scenery imaginable. About a mile from the house is a rustic cottage, delightfully situated in the midst of the woods close to the river, on the opposite banks of which the rocks are remarkably majestic. Yet this charming place is now deserted, the house shut up, and every thing wears the appearance of neglect, and seems to mourn the desertion of the owner. But such still are the natural charms of Avondale, that neglect itself cannot render it other than a most enchanting spot.

The grounds of Avondale terminate at the *Meeting of the Waters*, upon which the muse of Moore has conferred an undying celebrity. This is a confluence of several little beautiful valleys, with their silver streams, the principal of which are the Avonmore and Avonbeg, (the Great and Little Avon,) which here unite to form the Ovoca. The Meeting of the Waters is indeed a scene, which every lover of poetry should visit, and which must render all but the very dullest minds, for the moment, poetical.

At one part of the vale, tracing it in the direction towards Arklow, the usual wooded slopes are exchanged for high and naked rocks, on which, at opposite sides of the river, lie the *Copper-mines* of Cronebawn and Ballymurtagh. Several of the shafts of these mines are now no longer worked, their veins having been exhausted; and their neglected mouths are in several instances so concealed by the thistles and brambles that have overgrown them, that they become dangerous to the unwary stranger.

The vale now overtakes the fine woods of *Ballyarthur*, the seat of Mr. Symes; and shortly afterwards forms a confluence, at one spot, with four other valleys, where also another mountain stream unites with the Ovoca. From this point branches a road to the celebrated *Crog-*

han Mountain, from whence was obtained the *Wicklow Gold*, that formerly created such a sensation throughout the country, and even in the sister island. The authoress just quoted entertainingly observes on this subject:—The precise time when the precious metal was first gathered, never could be authentically ascertained; since those whose fortune it was to make the discovery strenuously endeavoured to conceal it, that the benefit might be reserved to themselves alone. From the best information that could be obtained, it appeared that a peasant lad, about 14 years of age, angling in the stream which descends from the mountain, perceived some glittering substance among the sand at the bottom, and, dipping for it, brought out a piece of gold. Surmising what it was, he was induced to make farther search, and from time to time finding more treasure, he entered upon a traffic with a goldsmith at Dublin, to whom each new prize was carried and sold, the purchaser most likely taking sufficient care that he himself should not be on the losing side of the bargain. At length his frequent visits to the stream grew to be a matter of observation among the neighbours, who, rightly conjecturing that there must be some motive for them, became inquisitive upon the subject, and soon possessed themselves of the important secret. This was in the autumn of 1795. The discovery was soon blazed abroad, and in an instant all other occupations were laid aside—the spade, the plough, the spinning-wheel, the loom, all, all were forsaken in search of the hidden treasures, which there was no doubt the mountain contained within its bosom. The tumultuous throngs that assembled soon called forth the attention of the government: it was judged necessary to subject the whole matter to some controul; and a detachment of troops was sent to take possession of the prize in the name of the crown, and keep off all other visitors. A grant of £1000 was afterwards made to two gentlemen of the

neighbourhood, for the purpose of prosecuting scientifically the researches into the hidden treasures of the mountain. No mine or vein of gold could, however, upon the most diligent examination, ever be discovered: the source whence the precious metal is derived still remains a secret: the great deposit must lie at a distance from the surface which baffles all research. Indeed it should seem as if the genius by whom the treasure is guarded (for it must be presumed that it is not without a guardian genius) offended by the intrusions attempted on his privacy, now in anger withholds his bounties, since in the latter years rarely has any gold been found, and, if any, in very small grains indeed. It was during the time when the treasure was open to the public that the greatest harvest was collected. Probably the treasures had been gradually accumulating unobserved; but, the secret once revealed, not the slightest deposit can be made which is not immediately observed and secured. Gold to the amount of about £10,000 was collected during this harvest. It came in pieces of various forms and sizes, the largest ever gathered weighing 22 ounces avoirdupois weight, while some was in grains scarcely larger than sand. A model of this large piece is to be seen in the museum of the Dublin Society: it was found by eight poor labourers, who united together, agreeing to share fortunes in whatever they found: 80 guineas was the price they received for it.*

The various processes pursued by government to obtain the precious metal, were as follows. They established stream-works on the several streams descending from the mountain. In the operation of washing, by which all the metallic particles, dispersed through the soil, are collected into a concentrated mass, (as is well known to professed miners,) it was shewn that the native gold was constantly attended by quartz, magnetic

* Plumptre's Narrative of a Residence in Ireland.

iron-stone, (some in the octahedral form,) magnetic sand, cubical and dodecahedral iron pyrites, specular iron-ore, brown and red iron-stone, iron ochre, tinstone chrystals, wolfram, and grey ore of manganese. It appeared also that the gold, magnetic iron-stone, and wolfram, were each of them frequently intermixed with quartz; and that the gold sometimes, though rarely, was incorporated with iron ochre, and even with wolfram.

A due consideration of these circumstances, connected with the known existence of metallic veins in the mountain, led to the inference that these veins might upon adequate trial be found sufficiently productive; and hence the directors of the works were induced to propose to government to extend their researches upon a systematic plan, in order to ascertain the truth of this conclusion. The measures suggested were, to continue the stream-works to the heads of the several streams; to examine more narrowly the solid mass of the mountain by means of trenches cut in every direction down to the firm rock; to explore more fully the veins already known, and those that might be discovered by the trenches on the surface of the rock; and lastly, to try these veins in depth, by means of a level or gallery, to be driven into the mountain in a direction nearly at right angles with the general range of the veins.

These measures met with the approbation of government, and were consequently carried into effect. Numerous trials were made by driving and sinking on the veins previously known, and subsequently discovered. The mineral substances obtained, were subjected to the operations both of fire and of amalgamation: but in no instance was a particle of gold elicited from them, either by the one or the other operation. This result induced the persuasion, that no gold was to be found as an inherent ingredient in the veins which traverse the mountain, and hence the works were abandoned.

What then is the origin of the gold found in the beds

and banks of the streams of this mountain? Are these depositions to be deemed of a date approximating to that of the first formation of the soil, as produced from the detritus of the subjacent rock, and of the mineral repositories contained within it, by the agency of the universal waters on their gradual retreat to the ocean? The occurrence of veins of iron-stone in the mountain, and of rolled masses of the same substance in the valleys springing from it, would seem to lead to an answer in the affirmative. But as the mining operations have wholly failed in discovering, in the solid mass of the mountain, any fixed portion of gold, tinstone, wolfram, or manganese, the primary source of these substances appears at least in this instance to be very problematical.*

The vale of Ovoca gradually expands from the point whence the road leads to Croghan, and the country becomes nearly a flat before reaching Arklow. The road to that town conducts through the woods of Lord Carysfort, while those of *Shelton*, the seat of Lord Wicklow, where are some of the finest oaks in Ireland, lie on the opposite side of the river.

TINEHALY and CLONEGALL present nothing worthy of observation to the traveller.

At CARNEW, a short distance east of the latter, are the walls of a *Castle*, formerly a seat of the powerful sept of O'Toole, who, secured in their various fastnesses, for many centuries defied the power of the English. This castle appears to have been of good workmanship: the material is a blueish stone. At two of the angles there are turrets, supported by consoles. In digging near the building some years back, skeletons of several men were discovered, with musket *barrels* near them (the stocks being supposed to have gone to complete decay) some of which were loaded with ball of the ordinary size. At the same time a spur was found, the rowel of which was as large as a crown piece.

* Statistical Account of Arklow.

NEWTOWN BARRY is one of the prettiest and neatest-built villages in Ireland; but is in no other respect remarkable. It is situate upon the river Slaney.

The road from hence to Enniscorthy leads through the pretty vale of the Slaney, affording many very pleasing points of view. As we draw near the last-mentioned place, *Ballycarney Castle* is seen on the farther side of the river on the left; a ruin which tradition assigns to Dermot M^c. Morrogh, King of Leinster.

ENNISCORTHY, the only town in the union so called, contains many good and well-built houses, and is altogether a place, whose appearance is sufficiently neat and creditable to the inhabitants. Being situate upon the Slaney, there is here a handsome stone *Bridge* over that river. Salmon, white trout, eels, and the pearl muscle, are the common products of the Slaney.

The *Castle*, the most conspicuous object in Enniscorthy, is correctly ascribed, it seems probable, to Raymond le Gras, the early English settler already more than once mentioned; but vulgar tradition, in this as so many other instances in the British islands, gives the honour of its erection to King John. It makes a noble and prominent figure in the town; and its effect was heightened at the period of our visit by the towers at its angles being beautifully tufted with wall-flowers. Having been repaired of late years, it became the residence of A. Hawkins, Esq. law agent to the Earl of Portsmouth, and is now a military depôt.

The *Priory*, as it is still called, or properly speaking its remains, have been converted into an hospital for sick soldiers. This religious house was founded for Friars Minor of the Strict Observance, A. D. 1460, by Donald Cavenagh, head of the sept of his name. From an ancient missal belonging to this monastery it was found, that its dedication took place on the 18th of October in the same year.

Other antiquities within the union of Enniscorthy

are, a *Castle* at Mackmine, in the parish of Clonmore, the residence of Newton King, Esq.; a *Rath*, in the same parish; and another and very fine mound of the latter description, at Selville, in the parish of Temple Shanbo.

There is a *Parish-School* in Enniscorthy, to which Lord Portsmouth liberally contributes £20 per annum. A public *Library* was also instituted about eight years back, and is maintained by subscription.—The *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary, is the only Protestant place of worship in the union; but there are three Roman-catholic chapels within the same limits, of which the largest, situated in the town, was erected about 12 years back, and is a building of considerable size.

The inhabitants of the town carry on a corn trade of some importance: those of the surrounding district are commonly employed in agriculture. There is a Cotton-manufactory at Kilcarbery; and a manufactory for flannels, frize, and blankets, at St. John's; both adjacent, and both worked by water. Many of the people are comparatively wealthy; and a majority of even the lower classes appear tolerably comfortable, (still comparatively), as well as healthy, and decently dressed. The common food, as usual, is potatoes and milk, with a slight change for the better on festival-days. The indigent of the union are relieved by the charitable loans of an institution, from which small sums are lent every week, interest free, and have been found very conducive to the comforts of those who have been permitted to avail themselves of the advantages thus afforded. Another charitable institution is a house in the parish of St. Mary's, for the reception of eight poor widows, built by Dr. Vigors, formerly bishop of the diocese, (Ferns,) and endowed by him with the sum of £900., which is lodged in Latouche's bank: the interest of which sum is received by the Rector, to pay each widow 9s. per month.

The principal seat near Enniscorthy is *Wilton*, that of the Alcock family. This is a very pleasing spot, greatly improved by the late Henry Alcock, Esq. It stands on the banks of the Slaney, about three miles from Enniscorthy, on the Wexford road. There is also an excellent house at St. John's, built by Charles Hill, Esq., in which that gentleman is constantly resident.

Vinegar Hill, which can be seen from the town, is memorable as the field on which was fought the battle that terminated the rebellion of 1798. Enniscorthy itself also unfortunately stands too conspicuous in the annals of that sad period.

FERNS is a bishop's see; but the place is inconsiderable, situated near the river Bann. The bishopric was founded, according to Dr. Beaufort, in the year 598, and was united to that of Leighlin in 1600. The see extends about 46 miles in length, from north to south, and about 18 miles in breadth; comprising the whole county of Wexford, and a small part of that of Wicklow.

The *Cathedral* is small, quite plain, and serves as the parish-church. The chapter consists of a dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer, archdeacon, and 10 prebendaries.

The *Palace* is handsome and convenient, begun by Bishop Cope, and completely finished by the late Bishop.

There are also remains of a large *Castle*, erected about the year 1180 by the first English adventurers. In 1312, by the treachery of Adam de Northampton, Bishop of Ferns, the Scots and Irish burnt and destroyed the town and castle. For this conduct, a writ was issued against the bishop by Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, and Justice of Ireland, ordering his arrest, for adhering to Edward and Robert Bruce, and furnishing them with men, arms, and provisions.

The castle stands on an eminence in the town. It appears to have been a square, flanked with towers:

of one these latter is entire, and the half of another is standing. The basement, and nearly to the top of the building, are of rude stones, of various sizes, and irregularly mixed: but all the upper parts are of hewn stone. Among the other apartments was a beautiful chapel, the floor of which is destroyed, but the groining of the roof, springing from consoles, is still to be seen. Over the chapel is an arched room. Most of the long loop-holed windows have had their edges rounded, as if to render them embrasures for light artillery.

The kings of Leinster were for some time accustomed to reside at Ferns. Archdall says:—"Brandub, King of Leinster, gave the lands of Ferns to St. Maodhog, otherwise called Aidan: who, by command of the king, was consecrated bishop thereof about the year 598. In 1166, Diarmid Mac Murchad, King of Leinster, set fire to and destroyed the town. In atonement for this breach of humanity, that prince founded an Abbey here under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, for Canons Regular following the rule of St. Augustin, and endowed it with considerable possessions.*

GOREY, otherwise called *Christ Church Newborough*, is a small corporate town, governed by a sovereign, recorder, and town-clerk. It is a *Deanery* of Ferns, held under the crown, and presumed to have been constituted by its authority from time immemorial. Near Gorey, Colonel Walpole was defeated by the rebels in 1798, and his army was consequently obliged to retreat to Wicklow. From Gorey also the insurgents advanced, and to that town they again retreated, on the 9th of June of that melancholy year, the day of their signal overthrow at Arklow.

ARKLOW, situated upon the Ovoca, nearly at its outlet to the Irish Sea, gives title of baron to the noble family of Butler.

This town, in the increase of its population, and the

* Monast. Hibern. p. 742.

improved appearance of the houses, affords a striking instance of a prosperous change within a comparatively short period: about 50 years since, it was merely a fishing-hamlet, consisting of a number of thatched mud cabins, and a single slated house. Now, however, there are upwards of 60 houses of the latter description, each two stories high.

Arklow may properly be divided into two parts—the upper town and the fishery. The latter still consists only of mud cottages, about 250 in number, badly constructed, and irregularly placed; but the former possesses all that decency and respectability of appearance described. The upper town forms one large street, sufficiently wide, with a gentle descent towards the sea; it has in recent years been greatly ornamented by the erection of a handsome *Church*, with a tower and minarets, from a plan of Francis Johnson, Esq., to whom the citizens of Dublin are indebted for the designs of those beautiful buildings, St. George's Church, and the Castle Chapel. Arklow church stands centrically in the town, on a rising ground, and is capable of accommodating a numerous congregation. A handsome *Chapel* has been since built, in an open and convenient spot in the upper part of the town, and adds to the general appearance of the place.

The *Barracks*, placed in a commanding situation over the banks of the river, are of a size sufficient to accommodate two companies of soldiers: they are surrounded by a wall, which encloses a yard for exercise, and are connected with the ruins of a fine old tower, which with six others, forming a *Castle* at this position, were destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in his progress southwards. This castle was once in the possession of the Ormond family, who still retain considerable portions of the royalties throughout this country, although the properties to which they were attached have been long since alienated.

Arklow Castle was a bone of contention with the English settlers and Irish natives. In 1331 it was in the possession of the former, and by them strongly fortified; but was attacked by the O'Tooles, who were however repulsed with loss through a timely relief afforded by Lord Bermingham. But shortly afterwards the Irish became its masters—but were expelled on the 8th of August, 1332, when the English re-edified it.

In 1641, the Irish surprised Arklow, and put the garrison of its castle to the sword. They kept possession of it eight years; till Oliver Cromwell, (as before-mentioned), in the course of his progress through the country, obtained possession of it and of all the other fortresses in the south of Ireland with almost incredible celerity.

The ruins of a *Monastery* were visible in rear of the town until a few years back, but they have now been wholly removed. Archdall, speaking of this religious house, says:—Theobald Fitz-Walter, fourth Butler of Ireland, founded a monastery here for Dominican Friars, under the invocation of the Holy Ghost. He died on the 26th of September, A. D. 1285, in his castle of Arklow, and was interred in this friary, where a tomb, with his statue thereon, was erected over him. Large ruins of this noble structure still remain: (i. e. when Archdall wrote.)*

The *Fever-hospital*, a small building erected about 14 years ago, is supported by subscriptions, and allowances from the Grand Jury. The physician attends regularly three days in the week, and medicines are distributed to from 3 to 400 patients in the course of the year. Arklow has also its *Dispensary*, established about the same period. The diseases most prevalent in the parish are fevers, pleurisies, and agues, which however are seldom fatal, when but treated with the necessary attention. The inhabitants of the town are chiefly subject

* Monast. Hibern. p. 759.

to ague, which is attributed to the neighbourhood of a marsh of about 100 acres on its north side.—There are some instances of longevity. A few years back, a woman died here at the age of 110, who, in speaking of her children, said her *youngest boy* was then 80. In 1814, the ages of the crew of a herring-boat, five in number, amounted to 335 years.

About 10 years ago, a *Sunday School* was commenced in this town, and it has so fully answered the most sanguine expectations of its utility, that it may perhaps be said that no measure adopted for the religious and moral improvement of the lower classes of the rising generation, within the county, has afforded so fair a prospect of producing the desired effect. This school was opened on the most liberal principles: all books, which could be supposed likely to give offence to any religious persuasion, were excluded. Its expenses are defrayed by private subscriptions; but considerable grants of books have been obtained, at very reduced prices, from the committee of the Hibernian Sunday Schools, Dublin, so as materially to forward its benevolent and praiseworthy objects. Two examinations are annually held, when premiums are adjudged for meritorious behaviour and regular attendance, which have had the effect of exciting a general spirit of emulation.

The market-day here is Thursday, when articles of various descriptions, and in considerable quantity, are exposed for sale. Great irregularity is however visible on these days, in consequence of the want of a market-house, and of some arrangement for the proper distribution of cars and removal of obstructions to the business transacted.—But these are generally the things last thought of in Ireland. There are four fairs during the year, held on May 14th, August 9th, September 25th, and November 15th. At these much cloth and woollen goods are always sold; together with black cattle, pigs, &c. The inhabitants of the town and

neighbourhood, finding these fairs insufficient for the trading purposes of the country, lately framed a memorial, praying the grant of four annual fairs in addition.

The only manufacture carried on in the parish, is connected with the fishery, and consists in spinning hemp, and making herring-nets. This manufacture, though apparently partial, becomes an object of importance when it is considered, that it gives employment to a great number of women and children, who would otherwise be idle. Besides, although, at certain periods of the year, large quantities of fish are taken, yet from the well known improvidence of the class of men employed in fisheries, and from the length of time they are frequently prevented from going to sea by stormy weather, the whole population are often indebted to the industry of these women and children for their support: nor are the early habits of diligence and exertion, thus imbibed by the latter, ever entirely forgotten or eradicated.

The inhabitants were indebted to Mr. Plummer of Arklow, (a man well known as the promoter and encourager of every laudable and philanthropic design) for the commencement and extension of this manufacture, which was at first presented to his mind by witnessing great distress amongst the dense population of the fishery, during unfavourable seasons, when it only appeared necessary to guide the natural bent of their inclinations, by affording them hemp, and a ready market for their manufacture.

The quantity of hemp now manufactured in the town of Arklow, amounts to about six tons weight in each year; and the number of women and children employed in spinning and knitting is not less than 1000. Each woman is capable of earning from sixpence to ninepence per day, and the children from threepence to fourpence. Every pound of hemp is supposed to make seven fathoms of net, and each herring-net consists of 75

fathoms. Great quantities of these nets are used in the fisheries along the coast: the redundancy is disposed of in the Dublin and Liverpool markets.

Mr. Plummer also established a *Rope-walk* in the town, where cordage of a small dimension is manufactured.

The herring fishery on this coast has become an object of considerable importance within a few past years, in consequence of the increased attention that has been paid to it. There are two seasons in the year: one commencing in May, and continuing six weeks; the other in November, lasting an equal time. From 100 to 130 boats are generally collected, from different parts of the coast, including Dublin and Wexford; some likewise from the Isle of Man, and the Welsh coast, during the summer fishery, when vessels from Dublin and Liverpool, lie in the bay and purchase for their respective markets: but much the greater quantity of fish is distributed through the interior of the counties of Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, and Kilkenny, by carriers, who find a ready sale, and make a good profit. The usual prices vary from 10 to 20 shillings the mace of 600; but sometimes they are sold at from a guinea to 25 and 30 shillings.

It is a circumstance worthy of observation, that the herring fishery in the bay of Arklow is considered, next to that of Galway, as the best on the coast of Ireland. And as the numerous advantages to be derived from its increase become more manifest, it will probably be considered, at no very distant period, as an object even of national importance.

The total number of boats annually employed is averaged at 214, and the value of the produce at £24,250.

Independently of the herring fishery, the commerce of the place has of late years rapidly improved, notwithstanding the great danger and many difficulties attending

the passage of vessels over the *Bar* of Arklow. It is not probable that these difficulties could, without a heavy expense, be so totally removed, as to permit vessels of burden to pass safely; yet it is the universal opinion of those who are well-informed on the subject, that, if a few thousand pounds were expended in constructing a pier on the northern side of the river, so as to prevent the waters from inclining in that direction, the back-water that, during the winter floods, rushes with overwhelming force from the mountains, would constantly clear the bar of any obstructions, which collecting of the sand might oppose. After the effects of violent floods in clearing the passage, there have been 17 feet of water on the bar, the sand being entirely removed to the surface of the marl, which lies beneath it at that depth; but, from the want of such a pier as has been described, the advantages resulting from such a force of back-water are entirely lost.

The inhabitants of Arklow have however of late years exerted themselves to apply some remedy to this evil: assisted by subscriptions, of £100 each, from the Earls of Carysfort and Wicklow, in addition to what was collected in the town and neighbourhood, they have raised an embankment at the north side of the river, from the bridge towards the sea, which has already proved of great utility, and has answered the expectations which were formed of it. But as their means are totally inadequate to the expense of completing the design, it is hoped that Government may be induced to pay some attention to the improvement of a harbour, which might be made to afford security to numbers of the coasting traders, who have at present no good port into which they can run for shelter, along the whole extent of coast from Dublin to Waterford.

As things now are, the shipment of goods here is attended with no slight expense and trouble. Vessels are obliged to pass the bar from the town, and anchor

in the bay, before they have received half their cargoes; when the remainder is brought to them in small boats: and it not unfrequently happens, that they are obliged at last to run from their moorings, with their lading incomplete, for Dublin, should a breeze chance to spring up from the east.—The usual imports to Arklow are coal, salt, iron, timber, deals, limestone, earthenware, tar, pitch, hemp, ropes, &c. The exports are corn, cattle, &c. Great quantities of barley and oats have been exported to Dublin and Liverpool during recent years: and large storehouses have also been erected.

The entire population of Arklow parish, but more particularly of the town, has rapidly increased during the last 30 years, and that, it has been manifested, chiefly through the improvements that have taken place in conducting the herring fishery. Lads of 18 and 19 now procure from their fathers a share in a herring boat; marry; their friends unite in assisting them to build a cabin; and they are enabled by their earnings to maintain a family, that generally increases with each succeeding year. Lord Carysfort has appropriated a large plot of ground, approximating to the sea, for the enlargement of the fishery, and has wisely granted such leases as have proved an inducement to lay out their money in building substantial slated houses, &c. the mere appearance of which sufficiently points out the advantages of the system. The proportion of protestants to catholics has not been accurately ascertained, but is supposed to be in the ratio of one to three.

The houses of the parish of Arklow, generally speaking, may be said to be neither of the best nor of the worst construction which Leinster affords. They are mud cabins, thatched; but certainly superior to those seen in many other parts. They are divided into two or more rooms, according to the means of their occupiers.

The general appearance and dress of the lower orders may be considered superior to those of the neighbouring counties, with the exception only of parts already described, in the county of Wexford. On Sundays in particular, the entire population maintain an extremely decent and reputable appearance. There are few of these cottagers who do not possess a cow, or some goats, whose milk affords an agreeable and wholesome addition to their potatoes, oatmeal, and herrings. Fuel is their chief want; and indeed that article is scarce along the coast in general; but Lord Carysfort has frequently evinced his benevolence in relieving the inhabitants of this district, during inclement winters, by purchasing large quantities of coal, and selling it to the poor at greatly reduced prices.

The fishermen of Arklow, it must be observed, are a race distinct from the other inhabitants: occupying a separate part of the town, and being solely devoted to their own particular pursuits. Neither will they, even when reduced to absolute distress, employ themselves in any occupations not connected with their favourite element. Their lives afford an incessant variety, which seems the zest of their existences. Sometimes they are enduring all the hardships of the sea-faring life; at others, they are sitting at home in perfect indolence for days together. Sometimes they have money in abundance; at others, they are suffering under the bitterest effects of improvidence and poverty. But, probably, in these particulars, they differ little from the same class of men in all parts of the world: and both their defects and good qualities, it is likely, may be traced in all cases to the same cause—a life of chance and adventure.

The landed property here is chiefly divided between the Earls of Carysfort and Wicklow. Fortunately, middle-men are in this union almost unknown; their lordships letting their ground, we believe in all cases, only to resident tenants. The extent of farms varies

from 20 to 80 acres; and as the old leases of three lives, or 31 years, terminate, new ones are substituted for the terms of one life, or 21 years; and, generally speaking, the rent demanded does not exceed the value of the land.

The decrease in the tenure of farms above-mentioned, has latterly become very prevalent in Ireland: and, as it is almost a new system, introduced from the sister island, it may be fair to enquire how far it is likely to prove beneficial or otherwise to the interests of the country. In England, it is practised with success; because there the tenant, at the expiration of his lease, is almost always preferred, on agreeing to a rent that shall bear a just proportion to any alterations that may have taken place in the character of the times. Besides, on taking a farm, the Englishman finds a comfortable farm-house, which the landlord is obliged by custom to build and repair: his farm too is well fenced, the land in general in tolerable heart, and there exists no impediment to his immediately commencing the tillage of it with profit to himself. His taxes are heavy; but as no man in England can undertake the management of a farm without something like an adequate capital, his means, uniting with industry, are equal (excepting only in times of extraordinary temporary distress, like the present) to the necessary demands upon them.

But in Ireland, the case is indeed sadly reversed. Without capital, without a house to reside in, the peasant takes a piece of ground at its utmost value: if he should find upon it four mud walls, with some thatch, but imperfectly calculated to repel the blasts of winter, it is as much as he can expect. To build, when he has no capital, is impossible: he therefore takes possession of the hovel as he finds it, and stops the broken windows, or the holes in the roof, with the first material that comes to hand. In many instances great part of his farm is covered with furze, which it requires a consi-

derable period to eradicate, and great quantities of manure to render the soil where it grew productive: consequently, it is with the utmost difficulty (to say the least) that he is enabled to discharge his rent, and afford the first necessities to himself and family.

If, after a long course of time, he is enabled by unwearied exertions to become independent of his creditors, he finds himself grown old, the years of his lease expired, and the only prospect for continuing the maintenance of his perhaps numerous family depending on his own life, and the little sum he may have contrived to lay aside. Will he, in such circumstances, expend the savings of many a toilsome year in improving a tenure, which the loss of one old life may snatch from his family?

The example of England has been adduced, as sufficient to authorise the practice of similar measures in this country, with prospects of similar success. But the wide difference cannot then be recollected between the agricultural character and means of the two countries; and Ireland must no longer be so immeasurably behind her elder sister in all the advantages of perfect civilization, and in the possession of all those encouragements and stimuli to the exertions of her capable though indolent sons, when the relations between her landlords and tenants can be similarly adjusted, and be attended with equally beneficial effects. Yet, most true it is, that blest with every natural advantage that can tend to dignify and elevate her among the nations, Ireland wants, not so much the forced application of the systems of England, as a mode of treatment which shall be chiefly systematic in kindness and considerate encouragement, to repay with interest the attentions that should be thus bestowed upon her.

The Farming Society of Wicklow have greatly contributed to the improvement of agriculture in this district, by distributing premiums among the farmers for

the best specimens of ploughing; in consequence of which, the Scotch plough is now very generally used. Marl is much used as a manure; but, contiguous to the mountains, the use of lime is more common. The latter is brought from Carlow, a distance of 28 miles; and the industry and indefatigable perseverance of the smaller farmers, who possess a horse, in drawing it so far, to fertilize the unprofitable brows, which had been covered with turf perhaps for ages, are strong proofs of what the Irish peasant is capable, when hope excites his energies. Generally he leaves his home about two o'clock in the morning; and reaching Carlow about one on the following day, loads his car, and returns, over bad and mountainous roads, within 24 hours. Frequently his rent is paid by thus drawing this powerful manure for his landlord, who in general is happy by any means to procure it.

The advantages of green crops, as affording winter food for cattle, and cleaning the ground, are as yet but imperfectly understood, although vetches and turnips have in a few instances been latterly grown. The beneficial effects of irrigation are however universally valued, and practised in many instances with great success, where the nature of the soil, and its position, are calculated to admit of it.—Fed calves, and large quantities of butter, are constantly sent from hence for the Dublin market; but the stocks of cattle are in general but indifferent, consisting of milch-cows of an unimproved breed, young horned cattle, and some mountain sheep.

The climate about Arklow, and indeed that of this eastern coast in general, is more genial than is common even in this so genial isle; and being sheltered from the prevailing western blasts, by the range of mountains which traverses the country from north to south, it is remarkably favourable to early vegetation. Until about 40 years back, Arklow was in possession of another

eminent natural advantage—a river which produced great quantities of excellent fish, and more particularly Salmon. But the mineral qualities imbibed by the water from the mines before-mentioned on its banks, that at the period spoken of began to be worked to a considerable extent, entirely destroyed all the fish between them and the sea, for the distance of eight miles; and the salmon which now attempt to ascend the stream in the spawning season, are frequently taken out dead, or in a torpid state. A proposal has been made, to turn the mineralized waters in another direction, by means of metal pipes, and thereby to restore the river to its native purity, and the fishery to its pristine excellency; but such a project must necessarily lie in embryo, unless undertaken by a company, or by those proprietors whose interests are immediately concerned.

There are few resident gentlemen in this district, the property, as before observed, belonging (with a small exception) to the Earls of Carysfort and Wicklow. The following are among the principal mansions:—

Shelton, (before spoken of,) the seat of the Earl of Wicklow, is beautifully situated on the north bank of the Ovoca, at the distance of about two miles from Arklow. It stands at the base of a range of hills, which gently rise around it, and are luxuriantly clothed with oak and birch-wood. The demesne is highly improved, and studded with magnificent beech and chesnut trees. The house is ancient; though the interior was completely modernised by the late earl: its height is only two stories, but it presents a rather long front to the view. The entire coup d'œil has a fine effect; and, with the surrounding scenery, forms one of the most characteristic and charming retreats of which this delightful county can boast.

Kilcarra Castle, the seat of the Earl of Carysfort, stands on the south bank of the river, nearly opposite to Shelton, but not within view of the vale of Ovoca. It has

been decorated with towers, and a castellated front, by its present possessor, who has expended a considerable sum in its improvement. The situation is very retired, on a gentle declivity, commanding a fine view of a glen, the brows of which are clothed with wood. The house, now so much enlarged, was only a hunting-lodge of Lord Carysfort's ancestors.

Ballyrange is situated within a mile of the town of Arklow, and commands a fine marine view: the house is modern, with a handsome front elevation.

Lamberton, about half a mile distant from Arklow, on its south side, enjoys a beautiful view of the sea, and the richly wooded hills of Shelton and Ballyarthur. The prospect is terminated by a magnificent range of mountains; and it is well sheltered from the western blasts by ornamental plantations, which form a striking feature in the country.

Emma Vale, to the south-west of the town, has been lately much improved and enlarged, and forms a very desirable residence: it commands a fine view of Lord Carysfort's extensive woods.

Cooladangan, two miles south of Arklow, and near the borders of the county of Wexford, is lately built, and on a generally excellent plan.

Sallymount, five miles north of Arklow, on the Dublin road, is well sheltered with thriving plantations, which are the more ornamental in a spot otherwise bare of wood.

Emoclew, a neat and prettily situated lodge, near the town of Arklow, towards the south, possesses a fine marine view, and an equally fine one inland and of the mountains.

The author of the "Statistical Account" of Arklow, (the Rev. H. L. Bayly, Rector of the parish,) to whom we are indebted for a large portion of the foregoing remarks, makes the following mention of the celebrated battle of Arklow before alluded to.

‘The several details of the battle of Arklow (says this gentleman) that have appeared in the different narratives of the occurrences of the year 1798, are, in the leading features, a fair recital of facts: a few circumstances, however, deserve to be remarked upon. It is asserted by Mr. Hay, the author of the History of the Insurrections of the County of Wexford, when speaking of the battle of Arklow: “Various did the fortune of the day seem to incline: it is necessary to mention, that rumours of the retreat of the troops were circulated, and that orders were given, and seeming preparations made for that purpose: but this still seems a disputed point; and, as the proverb has it, “all’s well that ends well.” The insurgents, after having displayed singular bravery, courage, and intrepidity, so long as their ammunition lasted, retreated, when that was expended, to their former position at Gorey.”

‘Now, the truth is, that the fortune of the day, (however great the disproportion of numbers might, before the commencement of the contest, have been supposed to incline in favour of the rebels,) was never for one moment doubtful; and the “singular courage, bravery, and intrepidity,” which they are represented to have displayed, must degenerate, in the mind of a spectator, into the character of indecision and cowardice, which even the immense majority of numbers, and the impenetrable breast-work of ditches, could not dissipate; nor was the smallest impression ever made on the King’s troops, although they were for some time exposed to a hot but irregular fire of musketry. As to the idea of retreat, no circumstance of prudence or necessity which occurred during the battle rendered such a measure a subject of consideration; and the assertion is totally unfounded in fact.—The only instance of apparent bravery and resolution which was evinced in the course of the day by the rebels, was manifested in an irregular attack headed by the Rev.

Michael Murphy, a county of Wexford priest, and made on a party of the Antrim Militia, who, with a gun, defended the entrance of the town. The death of this leader, who boasted of supernatural protection, soon rendered the attack abortive; being, with most of his deluded and intoxicated followers, destroyed by round and grape shot.

‘The author of another History of the County of Wexford, has given credit to, and related, a story which was never heard of by those who were eye-witnesses of the scenes that took place during and subsequently to the battle of Arklow, until this history appeared before the public, as affording a just description of the irritating and insulting conduct of the military towards the rebels, &c.—I allude to the disgusting recital, which is now only mentioned to be refuted, of the indignities offered to the body of the deluded Murphy, who was shot through the breast by a cannon ball within a few yards of the gun. His body lay for many hours after his death (which was instantaneous) on the spot where it fell; and, after the break of day, *the head was cut off, and thrown with the body, and with those of his followers, into the flames of some adjoining houses*, and nearly consumed to ashes; the remains were buried in the adjoining ditch, but no personal indignities were offered to his corpse; notwithstanding the feelings of the moment cannot be supposed to have been of the most temperate kind. The unworthy aspersion therefore cast upon the King’s troops of having “oiled their boots with his grease,” is as unfounded in fact, as it was injudicious in the recital, and shews the great caution with which historians should adopt such idle tales.’

We regret exceedingly to observe this Reverend gentleman, whose preceding sensible comments upon the district over which he clerically presides have been inserted by us with as much pleasure as they will doubtless convey to the reader, so openly assuming the

language and spirit of the partisan in these military details. To meet the "assertions" which he professes it to be his object to expose, he advances nothing but assertions in his turn; and while he denies any "irritating and insulting conduct in the military towards the rebels," himself narrates facts that afford proof of it. Were the cutting off the head of the dead priest, and throwing it, with his body, and those of his followers, into the flames of the adjoining houses, necessary parts of the soldiers' duty, that *they* must not be regarded in the light of irritating and insulting? Were *these* no personal indignities to a lifeless corpse, or not calculated to exalt the phrenzy of his superstitious admirers to a yet more lamentable pitch both of religious and political delirium? Alas! that any particles of that blindfold animosity should still exist in Ireland, but for the previous workings of which through a series of untold melancholy years, the rebellion of 1798 had never matured itself, to excite an undisguised warfare of all the hateful human passions, upon a field, that, it is but common charity to say, was equally marked by hideous and appalling atrocities on both sides.

Approached from the vale of Ovoca, the town of Arklow, we will only farther observe, standing as it does upon an eminence above that river, with the ruined *Castle* and *Barracks* crowning the height, and the *Bridge*, of 19 arches, bestriding the waters, has a very picturesque appearance.

The road proceeds nearly along the line of the coast from this town to Wicklow. For a considerable way, the shore is observed to be a sand of continuous flatness, but it rises at a particular spot into a remarkable hill of the same substance, which, as it is the kind of soil in which *rabbits* most delight to construct their burrows, is thickly tenanted with animals of that species.

WICKLOW is the shire town, at which the assizes are held; and is governed by a portrieve and recorder. It

gives title of earl to the family of Howard. Its site is a slope of the promontory known by the name of *Wicklow Head*, and distinguished at sea by a *Light-house*. At the foot of this promontory are several limestone caves.

Remains of the walls of *Wicklow Abbey* are yet to be seen in some gardens. This Monastery was founded in the reign of Henry III. by the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, for conventual Franciscan Friars. Here also the Fitzgeralds, in 1178, erected a strong fortress, called the *Black Castle*, which, in 1301, was taken and burnt by the Irish. In 1533, the O'Byrnes submitted to Henry VIII. by indenture, and granted him the town and castle of Wicklow.—The last Warden of the Friary was Diermit O'More: and a lease of the building and appurtenances was granted to Henry Harrington in the 17th of Queen Elizabeth.

Wicklow Races are held on the celebrated *Curragh of Wicklow*, which is an immense sand-bank, contiguous to the beach. Agate and chalcedony stones, of small size, are sometimes found upon it.

Near **NEWRATH-BRIDGE**, about two miles beyond Wicklow, is *Rosanna*, celebrated as having been formerly the habitation of Mrs. Henry Tighe, the lovely authoress of that elegant poem, *Psyche*; and a lady as distinguished for every female amiability, virtue, and mental accomplishment, as for the refinement of her taste and the charms of her person. Irish society was deprived of one of its brightest ornaments in her early and generally lamented death.

Between this spot and Glendaloch lies the *Devil's Glen*, of which an authoress, whose descriptions of this part of the country have been more than once quoted, pronounces, that “of the numerous beautiful glens with which the county of Wicklow abounds, this is by far the most so. I thought the Dargle beautiful, I thought the Glen of the Downs beautiful, I thought the Her-

mitage beautiful, but I found them all thrown into complete eclipse by this paradise of the *Prince of Darkness*:—how his name ever came to be associated with such a spot is wholly incomprehensible. In what the superior beauty of this dell over all the others enumerated consists, it is difficult to give an idea by describing it: no more can be said, than that it is a dell winding among vast rocks well clothed with wood, with a stream in the bottom tumbling over broken masses of rock, forming a number of petty cascades, till at the end of the dell is a fine cascade pouring down from the heights above perhaps 150 feet. Yet such a description can give but a very imperfect idea of the beauty of the spot; perhaps it may be the forms of the rocks—perhaps the greater breadth and more broken nature of the stream—I know not what it is;—the Devil's Glen is but a wooded dell, and the others are of the same nature, yet there is a charm in this far beyond them all." A female cottager of the Glen, however, gave the fair authoress such a detail of the privations of herself and family, during the preceding severe winter of 1814, that she "almost ceased to think the spot a paradise: indeed, suffering as this family did from cold, they would almost have rejoiced to have found it a Pandæmonium. She said, that whenever a heavy fall of snow came, it drifted so much in that confined valley, that sometimes for several days together they could not get out at the cottage door till her husband was able to remove the snow, and then he had to clear a path along the valley in order to get at any other human habitation. If they had not been fortunately provided with a very good winter store of potatoes and turf, they would have been in great danger of being starved or frozen to death. Her melancholy tale seemed almost an epitome of some of the stories of cottagers among the Alps buried for many days, nay some even for weeks, beneath a mass of snow falling from the mountains."

BRAY, partly in the county of Wicklow and partly in that of Dublin, (the river Dargle, celebrated here as a trout-stream, dividing those counties) is a neat little town upon the sea-shore.

Bray-head, a stupendous promontory, forms a landmark for vessels in clear weather to a very considerable distance. *Bray-Bank* is a large sand, far out at sea, on which a vessel, furnished with lights at night, is constantly moored.

Ravenswell, a pretty seat of Mr. Weld's, is seen immediately upon entering the county of Dublin from Bray. The house is most pleasingly situated, backed by a beautiful country, and separated from the sea only by a paddock. The disposition of the grounds is pleasing and tasteful.

At the *Hermitage*, and the *Glen of the Downs*, in this neighbourhood, are beautiful dells, resembling the Dargle, but on a smaller scale. Through the latter lies the great mail-coach road to Dublin. On one side of it is seen part of the grounds of Peter Latouche, Esq. whose mansion, called *Belle Vue*, at a considerable height above the road, justifies its name by the enchantment of its prospects. This seat stands in the parish of DELGENY; and the parishioners are greatly indebted to that circumstance, through the liberality of the Latouche family. Among the most striking acts of its recent munificence must be enumerated the erection of a neat *parish-church* by Mr. Latouche, and the establishment and maintenance of a *school* by his lady. Our road throughout this vicinity is very pleasing.

But we must not entirely quit the county of Wicklow without noticing a singular curiosity, called *The Scalp*, which is an immense cleft in a mountain that separates the counties, having the aspect of a fissure violently produced by some operation of nature. "But," says the author of the *Traveller's Guide*, "no theorist has ventured to conjecture that the breach might have been

effected by dint of human labour, this being the only horizontal communication with the rich and enchanting valleys to the southward of this steep and almost perpendicular mountain, over whose transverse summit the formation of a road was impracticable. If Ireland was as much civilized in the remote periods of antiquity as represented in the legends of Celtic antiquarians, such an effort of art for the attainment of so important a purpose would exist a noble memorial of sagacity and industry. But whether our progenitors might overlook the advantages derivable from so direct a communication, it is not a violation of probability to suppose that this stupendous operation might be projected by the eagle-eyed sagacity of the Danish conquerors during their sway in Ireland; and a recollection of those immense mounds, the work of their hands, still existing in this island, corroborates this novel conjecture. The wide aperture of this rent at the apex, diagonally narrowing to the bottom, where it is only wide enough for a road, savours more of human art than the majestic grandeur of nature's operations. Thus might this singularity be explained without the intervening agency of genii, a giant, or a fairy—

Nec Deus intersit, nisi dignus vindice nodus."

On which gratuitous opinion of the author of the 'Guide,' Miss Plumptre very properly remarks:—"Against this theory is to be objected, that it was not impossible to carry a road over the mountains, since one is carried over, very near the chasm, to the lead-mines, (at Shankill.) In the next place, if hewn by the hand of man, whence come all those enormous broken masses of stone, that cover the sides of the chasm? And, in the third place, a road being made through it is a work of very *modern* date: there are many persons living who remember its being made, and who talk of the vast labour employed in removing

the broken masses that lay scattered at the bottom of the hollow, so as to level it for making the road."

The *Lead-mines* of SHANKILL, just mentioned, lie at a short distance from the Scalp, on the county of Dublin side of the mountains. These mines are now but little productive, though formerly abundantly so. Near, is one of those very singular remains of remote antiquity, a *Cromlech*.

Nothing of interest, undescribed, occurring between this spot and Dublin, we here conclude our twelfth Excursion, and with it the description of the province of Leinster.

Since the above was completed, the following ingenious calculation of the *Population of Ireland* has met the Editor's eye; and it so strongly corroborates an opinion he was induced to hazard in the Introductory Remarks, that he is inclined to insert it. The calculation was made by Mr. Patrick Lynch, and communicated to the Editor of the "Parochial Survey" of Ireland.

From the number of houses returned to Parliament in 1791, Mr. L. deducted that of the houses returned in 1777, and thence inferred, that, as the intervening term of 14 years between 1777 and 1791, is to the difference or increase of houses thus found, so is the interval of 23 years, viz. from 1791 to 1814 to a fourth number; which, added to the number of houses in 1791, should give a number equal to that of the houses in 1814.

Thus, from the number of houses in Antrim County in 1791, amounting to 30,314, deduct the number of houses in the same county in 1777, amounting to 23,314, and there remains an increase of 7,500 houses during the 14 years; then, as 14 years are to 7,500, (the increase during that period,) so are 23 years to 18,321 houses, the increase during the later period;

which added to 30,314, (the number of houses in 1791) gives a total of 42,625 houses for 1814. The number of houses returned for that county in 1813 was 42,258, being but 367 less than what results from the calculation.

By a similar process, Carlow County will be found to contain 12,834 houses; the Census of 1813 returned 12,020, making a difference between fact and calculation of only 744. These examples tend to prove the utility of the method, when more accurate conclusions cannot be attained. The number of houses multiplied by 5.78 or $5\frac{3}{4}$ persons to a house, will give the number of souls.

The POPULATION OF IRELAND, according to this process, will be found to amount to nearly 5,937,856 souls.

An abstract of the population of Ireland, according to the late Census printed by order of the House of Commons, makes the number of souls in 1821, in

LEINSTER,	1,785,702
MUNSTER,	2,005,363
ULSTER,	2,001,966
CONNAUGHT,	<u>1,053,918</u>
TOTAL IN IRELAND	<u>6,846,949</u>

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